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Leeson caves in over trial

Rogue trader to return voluntarily to Singapore

Pauline Springett

NICK Leeson, the rogue trader who brought down Barings Bank, announced yesterday that he has abandoned the fight to prevent his extradition from Germany to Singapore.

His decision appears to confirm speculation that he may have struck a deal with the Singapore authorities whereby he would give evidence against his former Barings colleagues in return for a lighter prison sentence.

Stephen Pollard, his British lawyer who has spearheaded the publicity campaign for Mr Leeson to face trial in Britain, said on behalf of his client: "After consulting with my legal adviser, I am satisfied that I will be fairly tried and judged in Singapore.

"I wish to apologise to all Singaporeans for having doubted that I would receive a fair trial. I have decided to return voluntarily to Singapore and will therefore not be pursuing my appeal against the extradition order in Germany."

It is understood that Mr Leeson could be flying back to Singapore in about four weeks time, swapping the relative comfort of his Frankfurt prison for the much harsher regime and conditions in Singapore's Changi jail.

Once there, he faces a trial without jury on 11 charges of fraud and false accounting. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 14 years, although Mr Leeson is likely to receive significantly less if he has agreed a deal with the Singapore government. Mr Pollard refused to comment on the speculation that a deal had been struck.

Mr Leeson's unexpected capitulation on the extradition issue appears to be the result of a carefully considered switch in tactics. His original attempt to fight the extradition to Singapore tooth and claw has suffered a series of serious setbacks, the most fundamental of which has been the refusal of the Serious Fraud Office to press for his extradition to Britain.



In recent weeks it began to look certain that Mr Leeson would eventually be forced to return to Singapore. On that basis, he may have decided it was unwise to continue to antagonise the Singaporeans by continuing to fight and to publicly question their system of justice.

The final catalyst was probably the publication of the damning report into the Barings collapse, produced on behalf of the Singapore government two weeks ago.

The Singapore report was harsher than its Bank of England counterpart, severely criticising a string of named, senior Barings executives for the bank's collapse, as well as Mr Leeson. It swiftly emerged that the Singapore authorities were considering prosecuting those executives considered chiefly responsible for the crash.

Two former Barings executives, Peter Norris and James Bax, were singled out for criticism by the Singapore report. Mr Bax, who lives in Singapore and who was managing director of Baring Futures Singapore at the time of the collapse, is understood to have been interviewed further by the authorities last week. He was due to leave Singapore shortly, but it is believed that he has been asked to remain.

Mr Norris, the former Baring Investment Bank group chief executive, lives in Britain. However, the Singapore authorities have made it clear that they would consider extradition proceedings if they believed them to be necessary.

The Serious Fraud Office said last night it continued to believe that Singapore was the most appropriate country for Mr Leeson's trial, since most of the offences which led to the failure of Barings were committed there.

Barings Bank — the UK's oldest merchant bank — collapsed on February 26 this year after Mr Leeson had run up losses of £830 million by trading on the futures exchange. He fled with his wife, Lisa, triggering an international manhunt.

He was eventually arrested in Frankfurt en route from a holiday resort in Malaysia. He has always insisted that he was trying to return to Britain.

Mr Leeson's lawyers and his wife have since conducted a determined campaign to have him returned to Britain for trial, claiming that he would be dealt with more fairly here.

Mrs Leeson, who is working part-time in a teashop in Maidstone, Kent, has frequently pleaded in public that her husband should not face trial in Singapore. She flies to Frankfurt every week to see him, and has said that the cost of travelling to Singapore would limit her visits to Changi jail to once a month.

The Leeson publicity campaign has been aided by public relations consultant, Rodney Tyler, a former speechwriter for Baroness Thatcher, and has included a cosy television chat between Mr Leeson and Sir David Frost.

Earlier this month it emerged that Mr Leeson had sold his story for about £450,000 for a book, due to be published after his trial.

Chequers invaders take protest to Chirac



One of hundreds of protesters who got into Chequers yesterday. Twelve were arrested PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Gary Younge

ANTI-NUCLEAR campaigners invaded the grounds of the Prime Minister's official residence, Chequers, yesterday to protest against French nuclear testing as President Jacques Chirac of France arrived for two days of talks with John Major.

In the first of a series of protests during the Anglo-French summit, members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Greenpeace defied a large police presence at Chequers in order to urge Mr Major to "stand up to Mr Chirac" over nuclear testing.

But Mr Major stood firm against calls to condemn France. At a formal dinner to mark the start of the summit, Mr Major said: "We will not always agree on every point. Our nations are too independent, too proud, perhaps too individual to do that but our interests are inextricably linked."

CND and Greenpeace claimed that about 500 people entered the grounds. A CND spokesman said protesters felt "betrayed" by Mr Major's refusal to condemn the programme.

Police said the demonstrators got within 300 metres of the house and 12 people were arrested.

Campaigners will continue their protests outside the Foreign Office this afternoon where the two leaders will meet.

The talks will concentrate largely on defence and foreign affairs.

Greenpeace and CND said Mr Major and Mr Chirac could expect a barrage of protest wherever they went during the president's visit. "John Major's welcoming to Britain of Jacques Chirac just days after the third in the current series of nuclear tests is a slap in the face to the 85 per cent of British people who want the tests to stop," said a Greenpeace spokeswoman, Janet Convery.

France conducted the third of six planned nuclear tests in the South Pacific early on Saturday. The British government has consistently refused to criticise the programme.

Short's call to legalise cannabis angers Blair

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR'S campaign to expose the Government's "lurch to the right" was undermined yesterday after Clare Short, a leftwing member of his shadow cabinet, flouted party policy by calling for the legalisation of cannabis.

As the Labour Party rapidly distanced itself from Ms Short's comments, insisting that her views were personal and not in line with policy, Mr Blair was said to be furious at her lapse, only 11 days after he gave her the high-profile post of shadow transport secretary.

A spokesman for Mr Blair said he planned to warn Wednesday's shadow cabinet meeting that members' every utterance was subject to "intense scrutiny".

As senior members of the Government ridiculed Labour for its confusion over policy, Mr Blair's spokesman said he would remind colleagues "of the need to express party policy and not make personal statements that can be used against us by the media and by our political enemies".

Ms Short's decision effectively to break ranks preceded an attempt today by chief whip Donald Dewar and shadow health secretary Harriet Harman to highlight the Government's "lurch to the right" on several issues, including Europe and health.

Ms Short had said at the end of a television interview that existing methods of dealing with drug abuse had failed and that decriminalisation of cannabis should be considered.

"Lots of people in the police have said we should look at that and I think we should look at it, and I think we should not be cowards," she said on BBC TV's Breakfast with Frost programme.

"We should get some archbishops and former chief constables and see if we can't organise the whole thing better, and maybe that includes taxing and selling cannabis in a separate place than hard drugs."

Mr Blair's spokesman said he was ignoring the challenge by the Tory party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, to sack Ms Short. The spokesman said Mr Mawhinney was the hypocrite of the year because his parliamentary private secretary, Alan Duncan, had written a book last year recommending the legalisation of heroin.

As a backbencher and ardent leftwinger, Ms Short was outspoken on several issues. In 1984 she was among the Labour MPs who signed a Commons motion calling for a review of the drugs laws, including consideration of the legalisation of cannabis, and the following year she helped miners to secure seats in the Lords where they began chanting "Coal not dole". In 1988, as employment spokeswoman, she resigned over Labour's attitude towards the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and three years later she stepped down as social security spokeswoman over its stance on the Gulf war.

She has recently toned down her style, and won plaudits from the leadership for her speech at the party conference, when she backed the decision to block Liz Davies as a parliamentary candidate in Leeds.

The shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, said yesterday that it was not the policy of the Labour Party to legalise cannabis and it had no intention of reopening the issue.

"She made it very clear it was an entirely personal opinion, but it is not party policy," he said on Radio 4's The World This Weekend. "Labour's position on drugs is very clear. We are against the legalisation of cannabis and other soft drugs."

During the Littleborough and Saddleworth byelection in July, Labour said the successful Liberal Democrat candidate Chris Davies was soft on drugs after he expressed similar views to Ms Short's.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said any attempt to decriminalise soft drugs would cause "tremendous damage" to society. "Clare Short has shown once again what lies behind the mask of new Labour," he said on The World This Weekend.

Letters, page 8

Hundreds die in underground railway fire

David Hearst in Moscow

MORE THAN 300 people died yesterday in one of the world's worst underground railway disasters in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, after being trapped in acrid smoke on a packed train that caught fire in a tunnel.

The death toll rose during the day as bodies were recovered from the carriages. Hospital officials said 337 had died and 270 were injured, more than 60 seriously, from burns and smoke inhalation in Saturday's fire. Rescue workers feared the death toll could rise to 600.

President Haydar Aliyev declared two days of national mourning and a special commission of inquiry was set up under Abbas Abbasov, the deputy prime minister.

Although the underground has been hit twice in the past 18 months by terrorist bombers, officials in Baku said a spark from a high voltage cable was the most likely cause of the fire. In a message of condolence read out on television and radio, President Aliyev suggested a technical fault had caused the fire.



Survivors gave harrowing accounts of trying to get out of the train and then stumbling through smoke-filled tunnels where the electric rails were still live. Rescue workers said the smoke was so thick that it was impossible for them to enter the tunnels.

A police spokesman said the dead included 28 children, 126 women and 135 men. The highest casualties were in the middle carriages.

Gennady Nikiferev was travelling in the first carriage of the train when it halted after a huge flash between Ulduz and Narimanov underground stations.

"The train went on for a bit and then stopped. The driver came back but couldn't open the doors. Then the lights went out. After a while we started to suffocate from the smoke and we realised we had to open the doors. The car was packed and when we

Continued on page 3, col 3

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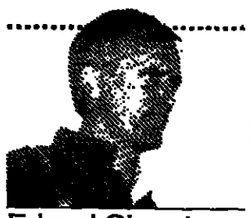
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Sketch

Glasgow pretty in pink and tartan



Erlend Clouston

IT IS two o'clock and the Big Pinknic is running 10 minutes late. "Terry, my love, it's a bit big, can we have it out of here?" coos a woman in a straw hat, drifting across a green carpet papered with postage stamp-sized pink and white graffiti.

This is bad luck for Gay Exchange, the Guildford-based male dating agency which has invested £5,000 in Glasgay!, Glasgow's unlikely celebration of alternative sexualities. Its corporate publicity is being turfed out of the Big Pinknic's shimmering pink and white marquee into a chilly space opposite the toilets.

More than 100,000 customers are expected at a 10-day event that claims to be the largest European festival of its type. Attractions include discussions on cross-dressing, a lesbian horror ballet and an artist who emerges from a pit in proportion to the number of telephone calls he receives from people indignant at homophobic governments.

The Big Pinknic, staged yesterday in a former Church of Scotland building in the west end, is a kind of indoor/outdoor vicarage tea party aimed at less intellectual gays.

"We don't want a festival that concentrates on the cutting edge of art," explains Cordelia Ditton, straw hat wearer and Glasgay!'s artistic director. "It might bring in people who wouldn't come to a piece of serious theatre."

This seems hard. Among the first customers to crouch, rather self-consciously, on the "grass" was Clare, a pretty blonde archaeology student from Rye, and Philip, a balding technical support analyst wearing a lace-up yachting shirt boldly inscribed "Corfu".

"The gay bars charge over the odds for drinks," grumbled Philip. "One place in town charges £1.90 per pint."

Suddenly, sergeant Bilko in a green kilt leaps on to the stage. This is Simon Fanshawe, the comedian. Blinking through his horn-rimmed glasses, he reminds his audience that they will be asked to participate in sports.

"So if you'd like to choose someone you'd like to be in a sack . . ." he smirks, before introducing Alice and Claire, two perky girls sporting red neckerchiefs and acoustic guitars.

The crowd of Big Pinknickers has swelled to more than 100. They sit cross-legged on the green carpet, clutching paper cups and tapping toes in time to Alice and Claire's hook line "there's nothing like it, a lesbian falling in love".

Glasgow might seem an odd stage for a gay extravaganza. Despite the androgynous national dress, there is still a powerful Calvinist distaste for "Jessies" as regular attacks on courting male couples in Queen's Park bear out.

But this, Ms Ditton claims, is all the more reason for Glasgay!. "We are a catalyst," she claims, citing the gay clubs and self-confidence which have sprung up in the wake of the first, 1991, festival.

On stage, Mr Fanshawe is having difficulty recruiting for the athletics. "Can I have two men from that little gaggle over there?" he barks. Self-confidence does not yet stretch to participating in three-legged races with the Channel 4 cameras present.

Ms Ditton, ever the pioneer, lashed herself to a Strathclyde university pharmacology lecturer and came second; hobbling in second last was Seona Reid, head of the Scottish Arts Council, which has contributed £9,000 of Glasgay!'s £80,000 budget.

"If it wasn't quality, we wouldn't be funding it," panted Ms Reid.

On stage a Liverpool transvestite in an ankle-length gingham dress announced, as he wound up the show, that all God's children had porn in their souls.

On her patch of carpet, hitherto lonely Clare sat in a happy daze soulfully mulling over a gender politics conundrum of gigantic proportions. "It was really really brilliant," she enthused. "Three really nice gay guys came and sat with me. I just hope I didn't spoil their afternoon."

First night

La vie bohème touring on speed

Edward Greenfield

La Bohème
Glyndebourne

IF Puccini's La Bohéme remains the most unsinkable of operas, one reason is the composer's own involvement with all the scenes, comic and pathetic, built on his own experiences as an unruly student.

It is an opera of youth, and although operatic heavyweights from Melba to Pavarotti have thrived on it, a production with young singers, well-chosen, brings out the eternal freshness of a piece that could so easily seem hackneyed.

Glyndebourne Touring Opera's latest revival captures just that spirit, not just because of the singing — almost all of it excellent — but because of the conducting of a young French newcomer, Louis Langrée, who has been assistant to Semeon Bychkov with the Orchestre de Paris and is now due to conduct this piece at the Bastille Opera in Paris. He keeps up a spanking pace and he knows perfectly how to time the big moments.

This is a performance which, despite the occasional moments when Langrée in his enthusiasm lets the GTO players get too loud, makes all the emotional points with a power so specific that there is no thought of sentimentality. He is helped by a first-rate cast, impressively led by a ringingly confident young Italian tenor as Rodolfo, Francesco Piccoli, a winning actor as well as a stylish singer, able to thrust home Che Gelida Manina incisively, without coarseness. Anne Dawson is already well-known to us, a Ferrier Scholarship winner who has performed impressively with most of our opera companies, and here presents an enchanting Mimi, tender, sweet and all the more moving for being unexaggeratedly drawn.

The second couple are just as strongly cast, with Paul Whelan an unforgettable beanpole of a Marcello with a voice so firmly-centred it rattles the ears. Opposite him is Susannah Glanville as a Musetta who — helped by the showy costumes given her by Russell Craig — readily takes centre stage for her big moments. The other two Bohemians are sharply characterised too, Howard Quilla Croft as Schaunard and Henry Waddington as Colline. Aidan Lang's 1992 production, originally designed for the old Glyndebourne house, wears well with its intimate, upfront sets.

Touring to Southampton (Oct 31-Nov 4), Plymouth (Nov 7-11), Norwich (Nov 14-18), Oxford (Nov 21-25), Manchester (Nov 28-Dec 2), Woking (Dec 5-9), Northampton (Dec 12 and 14)



Life saver . . . A member of the John Radcliffe team holds the electrical heart PHOTOGRAPHS: CLIVE POSTLETHWAITE

Electric heart opens up future

Surgeons have put in place a world first and an answer to the growing epidemic of heart failure

Lawrence Donegan

A RETIRED film producer is expected to leave hospital within two weeks after becoming the first person to receive a permanent electric heart, doctors said yesterday.

Abel Goodman, aged 64, received the device during a three-hour operation at the John Radcliffe hospital, Oxford, last Monday. He was sitting up in bed yesterday and eating normally.

Mr Goodman, who lives in London, was selected from among 25 people who volunteered for the operation. He had suffered heart failure and had been told he had only six months to live.

He was refused a transplant on the National Health Service because of his age. It emerged yesterday that the £80,000 cost of his operation was raised in an effort headed by the singer Frankie Vaughan, who suffered an attack himself two years ago.

Stephen Westaby, who led the 11-strong surgical team, said: "We now have a way to go in treating heart failure other than transplantation. That offers some degree of hope for people not eligible for transplantation. Heart failure is the greatest killer of people over 60 and as people get older heart failure is going to be the public health epidemic of the future. We have got something here that within two years will help a lot of people."

The artifical organ, which is the size of a grapefruit, is attached to Mr Goodman's natural heart and helps to pump blood round his body. It is powered by two batteries worn on a belt round his waist.

Mr Goodman, who is married with two grown-up children, was conscious within an hour of the operation and sitting up the following day. "I had nothing to lose from this. It seemed to be the only way forward. My life was seriously at risk. I weighed up the options and there was no choice," he said.

Mr Westaby said the operation had gone smoothly and the patient was drinking and eating normal hospital food. "But as you would expect he is not feeling particularly terrific. The device is working very well but he won't be singing and dancing for a little while yet.

"Mr Goodman wants to get back to a normal life and there is no reason why that should not happen. He has a couple of concerts booked in a couple of months and we all hope he will be there. There is no reason why he should not be back riding a bike if he so wishes," he said.

Mr Westaby said 500 patients around the world had received similar implants — including three at Papworth hospital, Cambridge, last year — but the electric heart fitted to Mr Goodman was the first such device intended for indefinite use. He played down suggestions of a race between the two institutions to develop the technology.

"There is a very long history of artificial heart implants and Papworth hospital have done implants using a completely different device. Our device was modified to make it suitable for long-term implantation."

He said the electric heart would eventually become lined with Mr Goodman's body. There was a strong suggestion that if you treated heart failure with such devices the heart itself would eventually become healthier.



The device in place, as it appears on an X-ray

Permanent pump is a first

Devices could be in routine use in five years. **Lawrence Donegan** reports

THE electric heart given to Abel Goodman is a potentially crucial development in the fight against heart disease, according to doctors who carried out his operation.

More than 500 patients around the world, including three in Britain, have received similiar implants in recent years but these have been intermediate devices for patients waiting for a human heart transplant. Doctors at the John Radcliffe hospital say the electric heart given to Mr Goldman is a big step forward in that it is designed for indefinite use.

The device is powered by two 1½lb rechargeable batteries worn on a belt. It comprises a chamber which contracts and fills with blood, then pumps it round the body. The rate at which the pump works responds to physical exertion, allowing patients to lead a virtually normal life. Unlike similar devices given to three patients at Papworth hospital, Cambridge, last year, it is virtually silent.

Steve Westaby, who carried out Mr Goodman's operation, said the device could be used on a wide range of patients. There were no problems with rejection and therefore no need for permanent anti-rejection drug treatment.

"New types of artificial hearts could be in routine use within five years. In future, blood pumps to support the heart will be employed in the same way that pacemakers are today."

Mr Westaby said he and his team were collaborating with American Dr Robert Jarvik on developing another implant called the Jarvik 2000 — a pump the size of a thumbnail, which could be the first to be inserted in children. It is expected to be ready for use within two years.

Jihad killing triggers vow of revenge

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

PALESTINIAN militant groups vowed bloody revenge yesterday for the killing of Fathi Shqaqi, Islamic Jihad's founder and leader, gunned down by professional assassins in Malta.

The militants blame Israeli agents for the murder in broad daylight in the Maltese resort of Sliema on Thursday. It only became certain yesterday that the victim, first identified as a Libyan businessman, was Shqaqi travelling under an alias.

"We tell the Zionists headed by the terrorist Rabin that this horrendous crime will make every Zionist wherever they are on the face of the earth a target to our amazing blasts and our bodies exploding in anger," said an Islamic Jihad statement sent to an international news agency from Gaza yesterday.

Palestinian sources indicated that Shqaqi was killed on his way back to Damascus from Libya. He had apparently been interceding with Colonel Muammar Gadafy to reconsider his stated aim of expelling up to 30,000 Palestinian workers from Libya, in protest against the Palestine Liberation Organisation's peace deal with Israel.

Israel neither acknowledged nor denied involvement in the assassination, but political leaders welcomed the removal of a hated militant chief.

Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, said he did not know about the killing, but doubted if it would affect an Israeli-Palestinian peace. "I think his business was murdering, so if there will be one murderer less, I don't see how it's going to affect the peace process," he said.

Shqaqi, who had run Islamic Jihad for 12 years, was born in a Gaza Strip refugee camp in 1953. He worked briefly as a paediatrician, after training at medical school in Cairo where he was strongly influenced by the Muslim Brotherhood. He had been based in Damascus since being deported by Israel at the start of 1988.

From the Syrian capital he directed a web of militant cells, mainly operating in the Gaza Strip and striking Israeli targets with suicide bombs and solo stabbing missions.

Islamic Jihad became one of the most feared and detested of the so-called rejectionist groups which have vowed to destroy the Israel-PLO self-rule peace accord. In the past year alone, four suicide bombers have killed 30 Israelis, mostly soldiers.

The group spurned all peace talks with Israel or co-operation with the PLO. Shqaqi insisted that the armed struggle would continue until the Jewish state was destroyed.

The same shrill language was used in yesterday's response to the killing by other militant groups. Hamas, the biggest Islamic movement, described the assassination as "a new declaration of war by the Zionist entity" and the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine said in a joint statement that the "enemy's crime will not go unpunished".

Islamic Jihad announced that Shqaqi's role would be taken over by Ramadan Abdullah, another Gaza man, but one virtually unknown outside the movement.

Deadly cycle of revenge, page 7

Guardian education supplement wins top European media award

Richard Doughty

THE Guardian's weekly education supplement has won a top European media award sponsored by the European Union. The 6G pages of Guardian Education came first in the youth periodical category of Prix Stendhal, an annual competition started in 1990 to promote journalism and communication within Europe on European issues.

The supplement received the award in Luxembourg on Saturday for its regular series of interviews with young Europeans, which are published in French, German, Italian, Spanish or Russian and designed for schools.

The prize was presented by Lord Jenkins, president of a Prix Stendhal committee including Klaus Hänsch, European Parliament president, Lord Ralph Dahrendorf, Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford, and Lord McGregor, former chairman of the Press Complaints Commission.



Richard Doughty . . . editor of the language pages

The judges commended the Guardian's entry for its use of foreign languages in handling topics, views, and cultures not often represented in the media. It beat off competition from nine other countries.

Dulwich College ponders future of cleared master

Lawrence Donegan

THE governors of Dulwich College will decide the future of the school's master this week after it emerged yesterday that he had been cleared of allegations of sexual harassment.

Anthony Verity, who has been suspended from his £100,000 a year post since August, was unanimously cleared of the allegations made against him by a secretary at the school.

Anne Ridley, his assistant for four years, alleged that he had sexually harassed her during a business trip to the Middle East. Mr Verity strenuously denied the claim.

Sir Colin Cole, chairman of the college govenors, said yesterday Mrs Ridley's complaint had been extensively investigated. At a meeting attended by eight of its 12 members two weeks ago, the board of govenors unanimously agreed it had "not been substantiated."

"A further meeting will be held this week at which everything relating to the future of Dulwich College will be discussed, including Mr Verity," he said.

Dulwich College is one of the country's better-known private boys' schools.

Powellmania as general clears the decks

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

EXCITEMENT over Colin Powell's much-anticipated campaign to become the first black president of the United States reached fever pitch yesterday when he cancelled all speaking engagements for the next two weeks, saying he needed to clear the decks for "the most momentous decision of my life".

Fuelling speculation that an announcement is imminent, he cancelled a speech on November 7 at a Missouri college, telling organisers "I had to free up additional time on my schedule for the week of the 6th of November".

As the Guardian disclosed last week, Senior Republican officials believe the retired general will declare his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination on November 11 — Veterans' Day — or shortly afterwards.

While his spokesmen insist that he has not made a final decision, the Republican hierarchy is rushing to back the former chairman of the US joint chiefs-of-staff in a stampede that amounts to Powellmania.

Buoyed by polls that show Gen Powell as the only Republican who can beat President Clinton, Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Republican mayor, all but endorsed the Gulf war hero yesterday, expressing his admiration and his hope that he will enter the race soon.

Conservative guru William Bennett, who spoke at length to Gen Powell this week, said he was sure the general would run and that he would probably win. Other confidantes consulted in an intense round of phone calls last week said they were also sure he would be a candidate.

A poll published yesterday showed that as a candidate, Gen Powell would immediately become the Republican front-runner, shunting Bob Dole, the Senate majority leader, into second place.

In a two-way race he would beat Mr Clinton by 50 per cent to 38 per cent.

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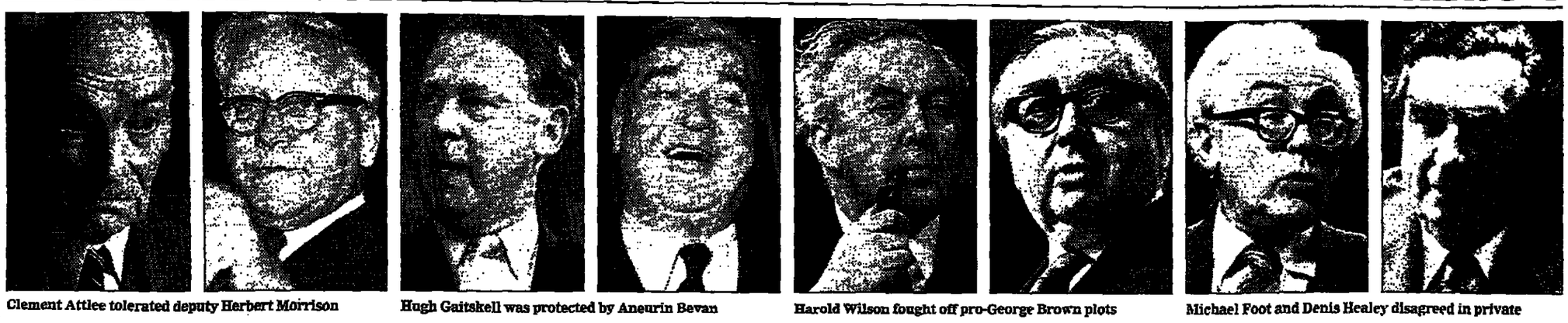
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Clement Attlee tolerated deputy Herbert Morrison | Hugh Gaitskell was protected by Aneurin Bevan | Harold Wilson fought off pro-George Brown plots | Michael Foot and Denis Healey disagreed in private

Hattersley says he and Kinnock were never soulmates

In a new book, the former deputy talks of his relationship with the ex-Labour leader – but admits he was too soft in his demands

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

ROY HATTERSLEY, the former deputy Labour leader, admits in his new political autobiography that he and Neil Kinnock went to extraordinary lengths to demonstrate mutual respect during their eight-year partnership.

According to Mr Hattersley, Mr Kinnock often spoke of the grace with which he accepted his victory in the leadership contest in 1983, which both men entered after Michael Foot said he was stepping down.

But he confesses that although the two got on, "We were never soulmates. Perhaps we were not even 'pals' — Neil's definition of the proper relationship between leader and deputy. But we only grumbled about each other in private and went to extraordinary lengths to demonstrate mutual respect.

"The partnership worked because we both wanted to do our best for the party and because Neil knew that I did not wish and could not hope to replace him."

"The best deputies are not a threat to the leader." Mr Hattersley writes in his new book Who Goes Home?, published on Thursday. "But they are a great deal more assertive than I ever chose to be".

He says: "Candid friends — normally called John Smith — constantly told me, 'You must stop him...' or 'You must make him...'

"But bursting into the leader's office with demands and complaints was not my way. Now, I think it should have been. For although he consulted me on most crucial issues, he often did not even tell me about the decisions with which I was likely to disagree."

Mr Hattersley, who is stepping down as MP for Birmingham Sparkbrook at the next election, charts a political career which has spanned three decades in the House of Commons, proving to be among the most tumultuous years in modern British politics.

Mr Hattersley describes the moment in November 1990 when John Major — newly elected as Prime Minister — convinced him that "he was not the stuff of which real prime ministers are made". Winding up a debate on a motion of no confidence in the Government which had been opened by Margaret Thatcher, Mr Hattersley noticed she had disappeared. Amid noisy cries for her successor, Gerald Kaufman whispered to Mr Hattersley, "Major's here, but nobody has recognised him". Mr Hattersley repeated the joke and it quietened the House down.

But as Mr Hattersley went out to vote, he spotted Mr Major, hidden from view by the Speaker's chair. The Prime Minister lost his temper and declared: "You think you're funny, but I think you're pathetic".

Mr Hattersley describes this moment as as "the first time during 30 years in the Commons I had ever known the rough and tumble of debate translated into acrimonious private conversation".

Who Goes Home? Scenes from a Political Life: Roy Hattersley; Little, Brown: £17.99

Endpiece, page 8
Mark Lawson, page 9



A great double act, but Kinnock often did not consult Hattersley PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

Difficult relationship has history of conspiracies, disloyalty, open contempt, and an attempted putsch

Martin Linton

THERE have been only two kinds of deputy leader in the Labour Party. Those who are a threat and a nuisance to their leader. And those who are just a threat.

George Brown was the best example of the first kind, a loyal deputy to Gaitskell for three years who became an unpredictable and disloyal deputy to Harold Wilson for seven.

Herbert Morrison was a more open conspirator. On the day the 1945 election results came in, he tried to stage a putsch against the supposedly ineffectual Clement Attlee.

When the King summoned Attlee, Morrison tried to insist he should refuse to go until the new Labour MPs had elected a leader. At that stage Morrison went out to answer a telephone. While he was gone, Ernest Bevin said to Attlee: "Clem, go to the palace straight away."

Attlee agreed, but nothing was said to Morrison, who only discovered his attempted putsch had been foiled when he read in the evening papers that Attlee was prime minister. Attlee tolerated Morrison as his deputy for five years, safe in the knowledge that the rest of the Cabinet disliked him even more than he did.

Bevin died before he could assume his rightful place as deputy leader, but his near-namesake Aneurin Bevan did become deputy leader to his old enemy, Hugh Gaitskell, for a year before his death in 1960. He was the best deputy Gaitskell could have hoped for, protecting him from the left when he attacked the unilateralists for sending them "naked into the conference chamber".

George Brown hardly did as much for Harold Wilson, who had to fight off several plots and conspiracies to depose him in favour of his deputy. But he remained deputy leader until he lost his seat in 1970.

Roy Jenkins was Wilson's next deputy, and relations were scarcely any warmer. Jenkins was a rightwinger and a Gaitskellite, like Brown, and held Wilson in ill-disguised contempt.

When Wilson was succeeded as party leader and prime minister by a rightwinger, Jim Callaghan, the deputy leadership returned to a leftwinger, Michael Foot. Their relations were never more than cordial.

The "balanced ticket" survived in 1980 when Foot took over as leader and the deputy leadership, elected for the first time by the party conference, went to rightwinger Denis Healey. He and Foot were far too gentlemanly to engage in plots. Healey just tore his hair out in private when he disagreed with Foot.

But when Hattersley was elected deputy leader in 1983, having lost the leadership to Neil Kinnock, it looked as though a new era had dawned. The pair, although from opposite wings of the party, were "the dream ticket".

They left the conference, hands clasped together in a victory salute, and a year later Hattersley told the conference it had made the right choice.

Individuals to get lottery cash

Rebecca Smithers and Larry Elliott

INDIVIDUALS are to benefit for the first time from tens of millions of pounds from National Lottery funds through a new system of awards, the Government will announce today, as it tries to defuse growing criticism of the scheme.

But the row over regional imbalance of distribution of lottery money will be reignited as the Millennium Commission earmarks up to £50 million for another big arts project for the capital.

Speculation is rife that either the Tate Gallery's proposed £106 million conversion of Bankside power station into an art gallery, or the British Museum's £60 million refurbishment of the Great Room surrounding its Reading Room will be the beneficiary of the next tranche of grant aid. Each is seeking half its costs from lottery funds, but whichever loses today will ultimately receive financial assistance from the lottery.

Both announcements will be made by Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley in her capacity as chairman of the Millennium Commission, in the first big speech about the future of the commission since it was launched in June 1994 by her predecessor-but-one, Peter Brooke.

Mrs Bottomley will launch a consultation exercise for the Millennium Awards, the first of which are expected to be awarded next year to people of all ages.

Mrs Bottomley is keen in a six-week consultation with charities and church groups to put flesh on the bone of how the awards are structured. But she will make it clear that the awards, expected to be for a minimum of £2,000 apiece and over two to three years, must have some kind of community payoff.

A government source said: "We are talking about money to help nurture aspirations rather than talents. The idea is to help people to gain skills in a way that will be of benefit to the community. These are not scholarships for bright kids."

Also expected to be revealed today are plans to keep the awards scheme going by providing an endowment of £100 million when the Millennium Commission ceases to exist at the end of December 2000.

Criticism of the lottery was particularly savage last week. Church leaders warned that it threatened to start a gambling epidemic, hitting the poor and the vulnerable, and awards to smaller charities and arts bodies came in for criticism.

In a debate sponsored by Labour, Mrs Bottomley defended the lottery as a "dream machine" and branded the opposition killjoys for wanting to make it non-profit-making.

The lottery has cut high street spending by 2 per cent, according to economists from Lloyds Bank.

The bank's latest economic bulletin says that since the lottery was launched in November 1994, retail sales growth has fallen from 3 per cent to zero.

● Five ticket holders each netted £1.59 million in the 50th lottery jackpot draw on Saturday.

The winning numbers were 7, 16, 27, 33, 35 and 44, and the bonus ball was 5.

Guardian academic project shows how 'pops' swung poll

Martin Linton

KELVIN MacKenzie, the former editor of the Sun, may have been right when he wrote his celebrated headline claiming credit for the Tory victory in the 1992 election: "It's the Sun Wot Won It".

Research carried out under the auspices of the Guardian Research Fellowship at Nuffield College, Oxford, shows that the Conservatives would probably have lost had readers of the Sun read the Daily Mirror instead.

A poll based on unpublished data from ICM and MORI with a combined sample of 10,000 shows that Sun readers swung 8 per cent to Conservative in the last three months before the election while Mirror readers remained static.

Had Sun readers behaved like Mirror readers, John Major would have won 23 fewer seats, leaving a hung parliament comprising 313 Tories against 314 Labour and Liberal Democrats.

The finding emerged as part of a year-long research project which forms the basis of the seventh Annual Guardian Lecture, to be given at Nuffield College tonight. It will be published later in the year, entitled "The Battle of Jennifer's Ear — how the tabloid press tried to influence the outcome of the 1992 general election election and how far it succeeded".

Media, G2 page 8

Hundreds die in underground railway disaster in Azerbaijan

Continued from page 1

opened the doors half the people just fell out on top of each other," he said.

The tunnel was full of suffocating passengers, some of whom fell on to the live rails and were electrocuted. "We started to run towards Narimanov station," Mr Nikiferev said.

Manish Gurbanov, aged 53, was in the second carriage and climbed through a ventilation duct. "We couldn't break the windows so we climbed out through a ventilation duct. I got through the tunnel by grabbing a cable on the top of the tunnel, but they say a lot of other people were electrocuted. People were dying all over the rails."

Baku's underground is one of the older former Soviet railways. Its small network of 18 stations was opened in 1967, but there has been little maintenance in a country which has been at war with Armenia over the enclave of Nagorno Karabakh.

Many have feared a disaster similar to King's Cross in Moscow, with its network of old wooden escalators in stations packed with thousands every rush hour.

Twenty people were killed and dozens injured in the two bomb attacks in Baku's underground. No one claimed responsibility for either attack but the authorities suspected political opponents of Mr Aliyev, a former communist who has survived several coup attempts.

Mr Darcy will consider himself honour bound to keep Pemberley intact and though, in his fondness for Lizzie, he will allow her to keep penguins in the lake he will proudly refuse to charge visitors an entry fee.
Nancy Banks-Smith

G2 page 13

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The Guardian Monday October 30 1995



Mark Featherstone-Witty: Institute's unique training

David Ward reports on the conversion of a 19th century building restored with the help of Paul McCartney to become a college teaching showbiz hopefuls how to thrive on stage and in the wings

College will put limelight into focus

LIVERPOOL'S £13 million Beatle-inspired Fame school, which should have opened last month, will now be finished in six weeks and is due to begin classes in January after building delays.

About 200 builders, carpenters and electricians are hurrying to complete the conversion of the building which housed the old Liverpool Institute of 1825 into a permanent home for a college charged with teaching showbiz hopefuls how to shine in the limelight and survive when it is switched off.

Much of the interior has been gutted, but the fine horseshoe auditorium where Paul McCartney once acted and Charles Dickens read has been restored and given a new stage and technical gear.

The gym next door, which McCartney used, has been flattened and a new building, connected to the old by an atrium, has risen to house a smaller performance space, sprung-floor studios and 36 practice rooms.

Four hundred part-time students have already signed up for the new Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (Lipa) and are taking classes in various premises in and around Hope Street while they wait for the paint and plaster to dry. The 200 full timers, who should have arrived in September, start their BA courses in January, with terms juggled to make sure they lose no teaching time. Numbers will eventually rise to about 700 full-time and 2,000 part-time students.

The old institute, which began as a college for mechanics and finished as a boys' school, closed in 1985 and went into decline. McCartney paid a visit and was depressed by what he saw. He contacted the Schools for Performing Arts Trust, a charity dedicated to the practical training of performers.

Liverpool city council, anxious to promote the arts, had also approached the trust. The three interested parties got together and the Lipa project was born. The European Regional Development Fund offered £4.46 million and Liverpool City Challenge pledged £3.4 million.

McCartney put up £1 million, and other patrons have also lent their support. Lipa offers a BA in performing arts, validated by John Moores University in Liverpool, and a diploma in higher education. Its prospectus stresses that being a performer is only one career option in the entertainment industry.

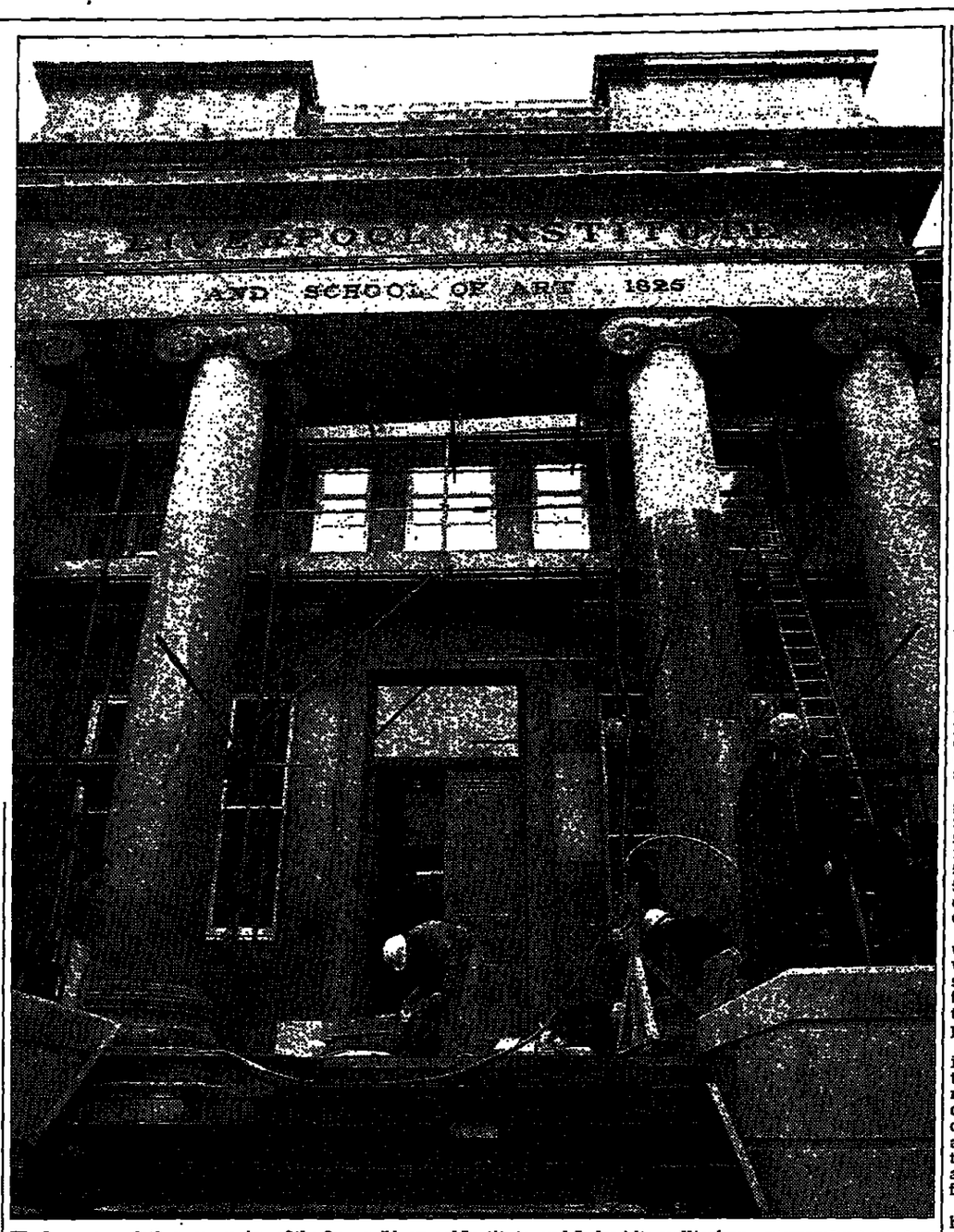
"It takes far more people to create, manage, organise, and provide the technical skills for an individual event than actually perform," says the introduction. "Whether it's a rock tour, a stage musical or a dance performance, you'll find that the support roles far outnumber the performers. All these people need training."

Chief executive Mark Featherstone-Witty adds: "We looked at courses available worldwide and consulted widely in the industry. As far as I know, nowhere else can offer our kind of programme. We offer training for actors, dancers, musicians, set designers, technicians and managers all in one place."

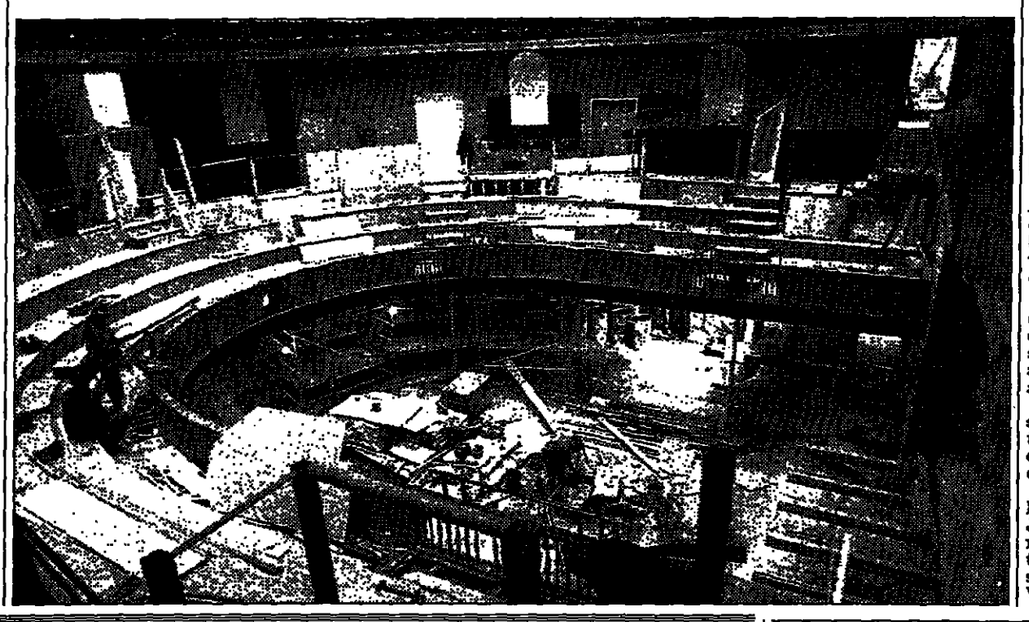
Talent alone will not ensure success, so Lipa emphasises multi-skilling, and every student has to learn business know-how. They can teach you how to play a Celtic harp and negotiate the best terms for a gig.

"People need to be able to play an instrument well but they also need to know about running a small business," he said.

The prospectus includes a question and answer attributed to Ira Gershwin. Q: "So which comes first, the words or the music?" A: "The contract."



Workmen completing conversion of the former Liverpool Institute, and (below) its auditorium PHOTOGRAPHS: DON McPHEE



Blair school gets biggest state grant

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

THE GRANT-maintained school which Tony Blair's son, Euan, will attend has been given the biggest increase of any school in England and Wales this year in a controversial double funding scheme.

The London Oratory Roman Catholic school in Hammersmith, west London stands to receive over £500,000 by 1999. It has also been awarded one of the biggest grants — more than £500,000 — to build a new music centre to set up the only new state funded choir school.

The extra cash, approved by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has been paid under a scheme the Government has started to phase out and Labour is pledged to abolish.

London Oratory got the biggest increase of any grant maintained school — from £36,699 to £204,977. Next year it will still get another £146,000, £87,000 in 1997 and £28,000 in 1998 before the extra cash is finally withdrawn in April, 1999.

The money is being paid under a complex scheme where grant maintained schools may be funded twice for psychologists, administrative help and other services provided by local councils.

The administration money is paid directly to grant maintained schools by the Government. If the local authority decides to cut administration costs and share the money among its schools, those in the opted out sector are guaranteed the same increase from the Government.

London Oratory's position has resulted from Labour-controlled Hammersmith council's decision to halve the money it retains for central services from 16.5 per cent to 8.9 per cent. This triggered a dramatic increase in "cash protection" money for the London Oratory which kept both its Whitehall grant and got the extra cash.

Details of London Oratory's funding have been disclosed in an annexe to a Public Accounts Commitee report on grant maintained schools. The PAC had previously demanded that the "unacceptable" payments stop in two years. Mr Blair would not comment yesterday.

The London Schools Information Service, which opposes grant maintained schools, has condemned the scheme. Martin Rogers, its head, said: "This is money to which opted-out schools have no legitimate claim: it is a bung at the expense of their local education authority neighbours which should never have been allowed and which should have been stopped fast. If councillors used public money in this way they would probably be surcharged."

The next biggest grant went to Highams Park in the north-east London borough of Waltham Forest which gained an extra £180,000 by 1999. Its increase this year was from £38,793 to £83,565.

Raines Foundation in Tower Hamlets, east London, will receive £652,298 by 1999 under the scheme but unlike the Oratory, its double funding was cut from £224,128 to £177,415 this year — giving it less cash than the Oratory.

On Wednesday the National Audit Office will publish a report on the funding of grant maintained schools which will lead to a further hearing by the Public Accounts Committee next year.

The London comprehensive whose appeal extends to the home counties

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE London Oratory was probably the best known example of the new model of grant maintained schools even before Tony and Cherie Blair selected it a year ago for Euan.

In 1988 it was the first state school in London and the ninth in the country to opt out of local authority control.

Once the school broke its links with the local council, John McIntosh, the headmaster, derecognised the teaching unions and put staff on personal contracts. With parents seeking places for their boys from as far afield as Surrey and Hertfordshire, he was also able to adopt a more selective admissions policy.

The 1,200 pupils — all boys until the sixth form to which girls are admitted — experience strict discipline and a formal teaching style with an old-fashioned curriculum, including Latin. The school motto is Respice Finem — Look Towards the End.

The school has introduced streaming, places emphasis on music, has its own theatre and encourages rugby. Most sixth formers go on to university.

Although this may give London Oratory the feel of a public school, it remains classed as a state comprehensive, and the parents pay no fees. Mr McIntosh, however, is one of only a handful of comprehensive heads given associate membership of the Headmasters' Conference of public schools.

Stricken navy veterans claim asbestos payout

Thousands to petition Parliament for right to sue Ministry of Defence

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent

THOUSANDS of naval veterans are to petition Parliament, seeking compensation for illness caused by asbestos on warships.

Represented by David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport, they are demanding either the right to sue the Ministry of Defence or an ex gratia payment for damage to their health.

Civilian dockyard workers who suffered similar ill effects from refitting asbestos-lagged warships — often resulting many years later in fatal cancers — can already take the Ministry of Defence to court. But members of the armed forces only acquired this right in 1987, and cannot make retrospective claims.

Mr Jamieson's campaign is backed by a Plymouth pressure group formed by a former naval electrician, 60-year-old William Luck, who was told three years ago, when he had two heart attacks, that his lungs had been ruined by asbestos.

Mr Luck traces his illness back to 1962, when he was serving on the aircraft carrier Ark Royal.

Mr Luck believes as many as 60,000 veterans could be facing similar health problems, even though asbestos was largely removed from warships during the late 1970s and early 1980s. He also believes hundreds of thousands of widows may have been affected.

The dangers of asbestos were recognised before the second world war but it took decades for remedial action to be taken. As a result, according to a recent report from the Health and Safety Executive, asbestos will soon outstrip motor accidents as the main cause of premature death.

New studies predict that the death toll will rise until about 2020, when 10,000 people a year could be dying from exposure during the 1960s and 1970s, when the use of asbestos in factories, houses and insulation was at its peak. Warships used a lot of the material to lag pipes.

The campaign to compensate naval veterans follows last Friday's High Court test case in Leeds, when June Hancock received £65,000 damages for contamination 40 years ago. She lived near the JW Roberts asbestos factory — since closed — in the Armley district of Leeds, and developed the cancer mesothelioma.

The ruling is expected to open the way to many more such claims.

Mr Jamieson, who will be presenting his petition on November 7, said he would be studying the Leeds claim to see if naval veterans could sue manufacturers of the asbestos used in warships.

He believed it might also be worth taking the issue to the European Court of Human Rights, on the grounds that sailors were knowingly exposed to health danger.

As long ago as 1945 the Chief Inspector of Factories wrote to trade unions and shipbuilders expressing concern at the increased use of asbestos in ships and recommending that respirators be used when working with it.

Bonking beggars examiners' belief

John Ezard on a vintage year for howlers

IF THE letters MW appear on a radio, what does it mean, asked a GCSE exam paper last spring. "Don't play it on top of the microwave," came the confident reply.

Name some key figures in the Industrial Revolution, another asked, and got the answer "Harold Wilson and Arthur Scargill".

The examiners tried an apparently foolproof question: What will you do if you pass your exams? The response: "I want to go into bonking."

So far 1995 has been a vintage year for howlers. The most ingenious was prompted by a paper asking for an example of the use of the word judicious. A pupil in the North-east offered: "The hands that judicious can be soft as your face with mild, green Fairy liquid."

But not only schoolchildren make these mistakes. AA driving schools have reported a string of disappointing answers to oral tests.

Question: What sign would you expect to see on a country road? Answer: Fresh Eggs for Sale.

Q: When should you sound your horn? A: When I'm picking up my friends.

Q: When do you use hazard warning lights? A: When you're parked on a double yellow line.

Q: What is dead ground? A: A cemetery.

A book out today also reveals recent errors to which teachers must plead guilty. One school, advertising for a maths teacher, specified: The applicant should be a convicted Christian.

Another advertised for an "experienced man to take entire responsibility for the lowest form of boys".

A Norfolk school posted the notice: Will the individual who borrowed a ladder from the caretaker last month kindly return same immediately, otherwise further steps will be taken.

Another school notice, in the North-east, warned: Quiet, please, exam in progress. Do not pass.

The book, which is published to raise funds for Comic Relief, quotes one teacher who wrote in a letter to the then education secretary, John Patten, that she was convinced the only way to reform her worst pupils was to hang them on meat hooks in the classroom.

"My only concern is that these children will not be able to follow the full national curriculum, although there is no reason why they should not be able to participate in classroom discussions."

However, Mr Patten's successor, Gillian Shephard, may feel — after surveying this year's full crop of howlers — that the most suitable candidates for meat hooks are the teachers.

The Funny Side of Teaching; Stevenson Publications Ltd; £4.99.

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Prince Charles is managing to get his hypocritical attitudes condoned and Diana is being edged into an impossible position in relation to her children.
Ros Coward

Page 9

UK jobless 'near worst off' in EU

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BRITAIN'S social security system will take a critical pounding from Brussels this week with the publication of a report showing the unemployed receive a much worse deal than in any of the other main industrial states of the European Union.

The report, due to be discussed by the European Commission tomorrow, says those out of work in Britain receive proportionately less in benefits than in any other EU member state except Greece and Ireland.

Its findings, which will be used as part of a push within the commission to develop a co-ordinated strategy to cope with the rising cost of social security benefits, are likely to bring Britain once more into conflict with its partners because of its hostility to European intervention.

The figures, in a report published by the commission, show that those out of work in Britain receive less than half what they would if they were working. Germany and Italy pay above 60 per cent of the working wage, Denmark, Spain and the Netherlands above 70 per cent, and France, Luxembourg and Portugal more than 80 per cent.

The report on the Future of Social Protection in the EU is also sharply critical of the British move towards means-testing of benefits and increasing emphasis on private pension provision. It warns that both will open employees to unscrupulous treatment and hit worst those most in need of help.

It says: "In the UK more than elsewhere the extension of means testing has been a deliberate policy move to contain costs ... [it] is administratively costly, can discourage saving and reduce incentives to work."

The report will be presented by Padraig Flynn, the employment and social affairs commissioner, to encourage member states to co-ordinate provision and discuss the best methods of securing affordable benefits as the population of Europe ages in the next century.

Mr Flynn wants to move so fast he is proposing that a detailed programme of action be in place by next summer, but his report is causing concern among fellow members. Britain, having opted out of the social chapter in the Maastricht Treaty, is opposed to harmonising social affairs policies and will not take part in discussing them.

Mr Flynn, a former Irish minister, said: "Since member states are facing common challenges there are clear advantages in co-operating to identify possible common solutions. The starting point is that social protection should not be seen as a burden or a cost for society. It is a positive force, ensuring the protection of the elderly, the frail and those who would otherwise be excluded from society, and it ensures social cohesion."

The report, a comparative study of Europe-wide provision, praises British support for carers of elderly or disabled relatives — one of only four states in the EU to provide such support — but points out that as a proportion of gross domestic product Britain spends less on welfare than other big EU states. About 27 per cent of GDP goes on benefits in Britain, compared with 31 per cent in Germany and France and more in the Netherlands and Scandinavia.

Pollution fears delay pit playing fields transfer to charities



Playing for time ... a question mark hangs over the future of sports fields near former collieries PHOTOGRAPH: TED DITCHBURN

James Meikle
Community Affairs Editor

LEGAL pitfalls are holding up plans to protect playing fields and community buildings in mining towns and villages.

Two charities may refuse British Coal's offer to transfer the properties to them because they fear the cost of future claims for damages from pollution or ground collapses could destroy them.

Officials from the Department of Trade and Industry are trying to help break the deadlock so the Government can honour its promise to safeguard 2,000 acres of grounds and scores of buildings following pit privatisation.

British Coal is responsible for pollution, but it is to be wound up, and the DTI is not prepared to inherit such liabilities.

Elsa Davies, director of the National Playing Fields Association, said: "We would love to have them for the nation. But if we took them on, our trustees would be liable. If there was one demand 10, 15 or 20 years down the line, it could wipe the NPFA out."

The Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation shares the same concerns.

British Coal said that environmental experts had told them there would be no problem with the sites.

Government faces claim that it covered up evidence of official blind eye to Iraqi arms sale

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Government will today face damaging allegations that it covered up crucial evidence which shows it turned a blind eye to the sale of arms to Iraq and allowed four businessmen to be wrongly convicted for breaching export controls.

The four will today take their case to the Court of Appeal in the light of evidence subsequently disclosed — also against the Government's wishes — at the Matrix Churchill arms-to-Iraq trial and at the Scott inquiry.

Hitherto secret documents are expected to reveal how Whitehall repeatedly ignored warnings that British weapons, exported to Jordan before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, were ending up in Iraq.

The documents were passed to the Court of Appeal which disclosed them to the businessmen's lawyers after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary, signed public interest immunity certificates.

The Whitehall documents were not disclosed at the trial at Reading crown court in February 1992 of the four men involved in Ordtec, a military engineering firm which exported a shell assembly line to Iraq via Jordan in 1989. Paul Grecian, Bryan Mason and Stuart Blackledge were each given a year's suspended sentence. Brian Phillips was fined £1,000, after admitting guilt in plea bargaining.

The documents were suppressed after Peter Lilley, then trade and industry secretary, and Kenneth Baker, home secretary, signed PII certificates to try to suppress embarrassing information.

Evidence disclosed to the Scott inquiry shows that ever since 1985 Whitehall suspected that British weapons were being diverted to Iraq through Jordan.

It is known that Lieutenant Colonel Richard Glazebrook, the official responsible in the Ministry of Defence for vetting military exports, expressed serious concern about the trade.

The appeal is likely to stand or fall on the prosecution's non-disclosure of relevant evidence at the original trial. A victory for the appellants would be a severe blow for Customs, which has suffered a string of court defeats in every significant arms-to-Iraq prosecution so far.

They include the supergun affair, the Matrix Churchill trial, the so-called "nuclear triggers" case, and the prosecution of Atlantic Commercial for selling machine guns to Iraq via Jordan in 1982.

Leader comment, page 8

News in brief

Seal killings prompt call for tougher laws

CONSERVATIONISTS yesterday called for tougher seal protection laws after 25 seal pups were found shot dead on an Orkney beach.

Police were making house-to-house inquiries in South Ronaldsay as Orkney Seal Rescue volunteers yesterday began examining the dead grey seal pups found at two remote coves. It is hoped bullets may be recovered as evidence. The group's chairman, Ross Flett, said the killings were illegal as the Conservation of Seals Act only allows fishermen and fish farmers to shoot seals seen interfering with gear. He added: "The act needs to be strengthend to make it easier to prosecute people who kill seals like this and to offer the courts far tougher penalties."

Moonies may fight leader ban

REPRESENTATIVES of the Rev Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church are considering taking legal action following the decision by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to ban the Moonies' leader from entering Britain on the grounds of it being "conducive to the public good". Korean-born Moon had been due to arrive in London next weekend for his first visit to Britain since 1978 to address 1,200 disciples at London's Queen Elizabeth II conference centre.

Unification Church representatives say they may seek judicial review of the decision in an attempt to have the ban overturned. Moon, 75, who was jailed in the US in the early 1980s for tax fraud, has been accused of encouraging the break-up of families and of brain-washing recruits.

Patten plea rejected

CHRIS Patten, the Hong Kong governor, yesterday said the Government had rejected his appeal on behalf of 7,000 Indians living in the colony, who could be made stateless when China takes over in 1997, to be given full British passports and allowed to resettle in Britain. Interviewed on London Weekend Television, Mr Patten said: "I got the response I've had in the past, which was to say if these people find themselves in any particular difficulties after 1997 ... then we will look at their case very sensitively." He said he did not believe that went far enough.

Coventry street shooting

POLICE yesterday launched a hunt for a gunman who shot a man dead in a street in the Hillfields area of Coventry. The victim, who has not yet been formally identified, was walking with a friend when the killer approached and fired three shots from a handgun. "We are investigating the possibility this could be a drugs related murder," said a police spokeswoman.

Drivers' double standards

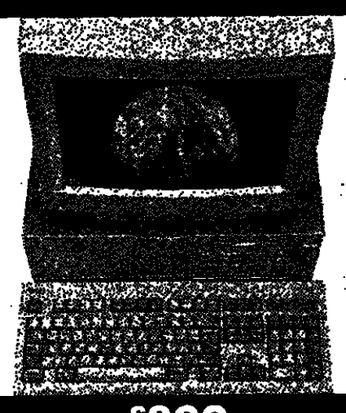
MOTORISTS have double standards and nearly all delude themselves that they drive well and that others exhibit bad habits behind the wheel, according to a Mori survey for the British School of Motoring published today. Drivers said the two most annoying habits on the road were bad signalling and inconsiderate or aggressive driving — yet only 5 per cent admitted having those bad habits themselves. Indeed, more than 25 per cent of drivers claimed to have no bad driving habits, and 90 per cent rate their driving skills as fairly good to excellent. Speeding is the only bad habit for which drivers blame themselves as much as other motorists, but 31 per cent think other drivers are inconsiderate or aggressive.

Two escape helicopter crash

TWO men escaped serious injury when their private helicopter came down in a canal at Adlington, Cheshire, yesterday, narrowly missing power lines.

Christopher Kyley, 35, the owner and pilot from Swansea, and his passenger Geoffrey Fairbank, 60, from Adlington, were checked by paramedics at the scene and allowed to go home. The cause of the crash is not yet known.

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Croat voters set to back war policy

Julian Borger in Petrinja, Croatia

CROATIANS were expected to endorse their government's policy of military action against rebel Serbs in parliamentary elections yesterday, but as they queued to vote there were signs that the fighting may not be over yet.

Polling booths in the medieval walled port of Dubrovnik were temporarily closed when mortar shells landed in the suburbs. Croatian officials said they had been fired from Serb positions inside Bosnia. There were no reports of casualties.

The Bosnian Serb army blamed Croatian forces for starting the trouble by killing a Serb soldier over the weekend. Croatia has been threatening since August to drive the Serbs out of artillery range of its coast.

The defence minister, Gojko Susak, also warned of a military solution in Eastern Slavonia, the last Serb-held part of Croatia, after talks to determine the enclave's future were postponed yesterday.

Diplomats said differences remained over the length of a proposed transition period to Croatian rule. The issue will be tackled at parallel talks in Croatia and in the United States later this week.

Mr Susak told Croatian radio yesterday that if the negotiations over Eastern Slavonia were not successful, "there will be action before Christmas".

In Petrinja, one of many formerly Serb-held towns retaken in two government offensives earlier this year, support was high for the ruling Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ). Most of the voters were former refugees whose return had been made possible by the offensives.

Polls suggest the HDZ will garner about 50 per cent of the vote, riding a wave of euphoria following the victories over the Serbs.

"I will vote for the party which has made Croatia whole and unified once more," said Ante Damianovic, a central-heating engineer aged 32, who took part in the May offensive to retake Petrinja and the surrounding Krajina region.

Most of Petrinja's estimated 12,000 Serb residents fled the Croatian offensive. Only 14 Serbs had voted by lunchtime yesterday. None wished to speak to journalists.

Opposition leaders and foreign observers have criticised amendments to Croatia's election law, rushed through parliament in September, which favour the HDZ. One amendment reserves 12 seats for ethnic Croats living abroad, most of them in Bosnia, among whom the HDZ has a virtual monopoly of support.

The state-owned television station has also been criticised for bias towards the HDZ.

In Bosnia, the agonisingly slow process of lifting Sarajevo's siege continued yesterday when for the first time since spring 1992, civilians left the capital along an ordinary bus route.

Two buses left Sarajevo with a United Nations military escort. The first carried a dozen passengers to the central Bosnian town of Kiseljak. It crossed the front line and a 15-mile stretch of Serb-held territory without a hitch.

Thirty-seven passengers later packed a second bus heading for the Croatian capital, Zagreb. UN officials said it also cleared Serb checkpoints, after being searched.

Until recently, Sarajevans wanting to leave the city had to scramble through a muddy 800-yard tunnel and hitch a lift on a track over Mount Igman, on the outskirts of the city. Yesterday's buses followed pre-war routes along main roads out of Sarajevo.

UN officials have had patchy success in lifting the Serb blockade around Sarajevo since a ceasefire signed on October 12. Attempts to open barricades on a bridge joining government and Serb-held districts failed yesterday, apparently for bureaucratic reasons.

A crowd of Sarajevans gathered on the government side of the Brotherhood and Unity bridge, anxious to see friends and relatives cut off since fighting started in April 1992. According to a UN officer, the plan to open the bridge broke down because the authorities on both sides failed to exchange lists of civilians permitted to cross Sarajevo's version of Checkpoint Charlie.

Fears of electoral farce as Russia bars popular liberal from standing

David Hearst in Moscow

THE RUSSIAN central electoral commission yesterday barred the liberal reform party of one of the country's most popular politicians, economist Grigori Yavlinsky, from running in the December 17 parliamentary elections.

It said Mr Yavlinsky's party, Yabloko, an acronym of its three founders, had violated election rules by dropping candidates from its election list. The party claimed some regional candidates had had no time to gather the required number of signatures, and agreed to erase their names from the national party list.

Nikolai Ryabov, the commission's chairman, told a Yabloko representative yesterday: "You think that if Yabloko has a faction in parliament and influence in the country you can violate the law. We do not think so."

Behind the ruling lies the complicated procedural issue of gathering signatures for regional party candidates and the national lists. The problem is that most people believe that Mr Ryabov or his commission are influenced by the Kremlin, which appointed them.

Yegor Gaidar, leader of the rival faction, Russia's Choice, was the first to express outrage, saying: "The elections will be a farce."

There was no word last night from Mr Yavlinsky, who has scored highly in the opinion polls as a future presidential candidate. He was the author of one of the first economic reform plans, later replaced by Mr Gaidar's shock-therapy programme.

US-Kremlin deal on troops

RUSSIA'S defence minister, Pavel Grachev, confirmed yesterday he had reached a deal with his US counterpart, William Perry, on changes to a treaty limiting non-nuclear military forces in Europe.

General Grachev told Interfax news agency that Washington backed a Moscow initiative to change curbs on Russian troop deployments called for in the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty. — Reuter.

He has been a stringent critic of Mr Yeltsin in parliament.

The commission voted by 10 to three against Yabloko's registration, and last night the party announced it would appeal today.

If the court upholds the commission's decision, this would destroy one of the most influential groups of liberal reformers. Of the three democratic groups, Yabloko was the most likely to clear the 5 per cent hurdle needed to be recognised as a parliamentary faction.

The party vote is unlikely to transfer to Mr Gaidar or to Boris Fyodorov, the leaders of the other liberal faction, nor to Viktor Chernomyrdin's Our Home is Russia. Yabloko voters would instead stay away from the polls.

In a more predictable decision at the weekend, the commission disqualified the nationalist movement headed by Mr Yeltsin's deadliest foe, the former vice-president, Alexander Rutskoi.

Mr Ryabov said Derzhava (Strong State) had lost 86 people since it was submitted for approval, and so was collecting voter's signatures for people who were no longer planning to run.

The signatures hurdle is a formidable one. Each party has to submit 200,000 signatures, gathered in at least 15 regions. The signatures of each region must not comprise more than 7 per cent of the total.

Mr Rutskoi accused the commission of bias, and of carrying out "a political order" from the government. He said he would appeal in the supreme court.

The list controversy is certain be used to exclude other parties, especially communist and agrarian parties, which are expected to do best.

Meanwhile, no change was reported in President Yeltsin's condition yesterday, but doctors refused for the third day running to allow political advisers to see him. A presidential spokesman said: "President Boris Yeltsin's condition remained unchanged last night and this morning. Specialists are continuing the active treatment."

Pressure is bound to grow on the Kremlin to produce independent evidence of his condition. After his last heart attack, three months ago, the Kremlin produced a video still of Mr Yeltsin working at a desk which was virtually identical to one taken in his holiday dacha months earlier. Shortly after that fiasco a Russian television crew was allowed to film him.

Support for wrong bear, page 9



Top-heavy ... Sudanese workers expelled from Libya cling to a lorry with their possessions as they arrive at the weekend at a restpoint in Sudan, 200 miles from the border. The Libyan leader, Muammar Gadafy, decided to expel foreign workers last month PHOTOGRAPH: RAMZI HAYDAR

Opposition cries foul in Tanzania ballot

Chris McGreal in Dar es Salaam

OPPOSITION candidates condemned Tanzania's first multiparty election even before the polls closed yesterday, as missing ballot papers and voting stations that failed to open fuelled suspicions of fraud.

Last night, the election commission was considering extending the vote to today.

One of three opposition presidential candidates, Ibrahim Lipumba, accused the government of attempting to repeat the vote rigging that delivered it victory in Zanzibar's regional poll last week.

Other opposition leaders, including the main challenger for the presidency, Augustine Mrema, condemned the conduct of the vote but said that they would withhold further comment until they had met the electoral commission.

The commission extended yesterday's voting for four hours after many polling stations opened late because officials said materials had not arrived. At others, officials themselves failed to turn up. Some polling stations did not open at all.

In Dar es Salaam the delays were mostly confined to opposition areas. In the south of the city, where support for the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) is strong, there were no difficulties.

Some voters attributed the problems to the incompetence of Tanzania's administration. Others accused the CCM of trying to load the dice in favour of its presidential candidate, Benjamin Mkapa.

Even before the vote, questionable practices — from police intimidation to the refusal to give opposition supporters voting cards because "the book to register opposition voters is lost" — affected rural areas where 85 per cent of the electoral lives and the CCM is pervasive.

Meanwhile, the government still faced criticism for allegedly rigging the regional vote on Zanzibar a week ago. Tanzania's foreign donors, who provide about two-thirds of the country's budget, have demanded an investigation.

US says Bosnian peace still far off

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE Clinton administration was urgently seeking yesterday to lower expectations for this week's Bosnia peace talks, as fresh evidence emerged of Serb massacres of Muslim civilians.

"We are very far from an agreement," warned the United States assistant secretary of state, Richard Holbrooke, Washington's chief negotiator for the former Yugoslavia. He said all sides were hardening their positions for the talks, which are due to start in Ohio on Wednesday.

Singling out the Bosnian Serbs, who have insisted on their right to secede from a future Bosnian state, Mr Holbrooke said: "There will be no peace if that is their position."

White House officials also moved to dispel hopes of a breakthrough. "This is the problem that people have been calling intractable for 42 months," said one official yesterday.

The Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, Bosnia's president, Alija Izetbegovic, and Croatia's Franjo Tudjman will hold the landmark meeting under a news blackout at the Wright-Patterson air base, just outside Dayton.

But a dark shadow was cast over the conference yesterday. The US administration revealed that it had supplied the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague with evidence that up to 8,000 Bosnian Muslims were massacred by rebel Serb forces after the fall of Srebrenica in July.

According to the Washington Post, reconnaissance photos and intelligence material supplied by the US go further than photographs shown by Washington's UN ambassador, Madeleine Albright, to a closed-door session of the Security Council last August.

The new data identify more mass graves than previous accounts, establishing "approximately half a dozen" Serb killing fields, where Muslim men were rounded up and shot.

One aerial photograph shows hundreds of men held at gunpoint on July 13 — two days after the Serb capture of the city, which was meant to be a UN-protected safe haven. The picture was reportedly not shown to President Clinton until August 4.

A separate report in the New York Times — which describes the slaughter in chilling detail — blames Western inaction for the scale of mass murder. The paper says that a request from the Dutch commander in Srebrenica for Nato or UN military action to stop the massacre was ignored.

Children lost to Sudan's press-gangs

State-sponsored kidnapping raids are being used to fuel the long civil war, writes **Kathy Evans** in the southern town of Juba

FOR the past year, Masoma Thura has been engaged in a search he vows never to give up — a hunt for his son, Ater, aged 10.

In August last year, Ater was playing football outside the family house in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. That was the last Mr Thura saw of him. Ater had become the latest victim of the state-sponsored kidnapping of young children for service in Sudan's civil war.

Government officials say the raids are designed to round up street children and give them a chance of food and education. Western human rights activists say the child soldiers are all black and Christian, and once in the camps they are force-fed Islam and military training.

Nor is the tactic confined to the mainly Muslim north. Rebel groups in the Christian south also engage in such recruitment raids, human rights groups say.

Mr Thura is pursuing the case through a special "kidnapping court" established by the government to help parents locate lost children.

"I have spent all I can on bribes to get information about my son's whereabouts. I managed, through one official, to get into a children's camp in the east. I saw thousands of children — someone said there were 13,000 there. Some were chained to beds. I never found my son, though," he sighs.

The enslavement of children for war is the most tragic aspect of the racial and religious conflict that has raged in Sudan for more than two generations.

More than 200 years ago, northerners viewed the south as a source of slaves. To the country's 5 million black Christians, the child soldiers seem a painful repetition of history.

Sudan's Christian community considers itself part of central Africa. Northerners say their country is Arab and part of the Muslim world.

Travelling south to Juba, the divide is apparent. The countryside is dotted with churches and small African-style villages, with houses made of mud and topped with thatch.

Here, the language is not Arabic, but English. Outside Juba airport, a road sign says it all. "Uganda", it proclaims, "130 miles."

More than a million people have been killed and 300,000 displaced in the civil war. And no end is in sight to the conflict which absorbs nearly two-thirds of the budget. Last month, the most recent high-profile mediator, the former US president Jimmy Carter, gave up in frustration.

Militarily the initiative is with Khartoum, yet politically and psychologically the region long ago slipped from its control. The regime's strongman, Dr Hassan Turabi, claims the government controls nine out of 10 southern states.

The reality is that Khartoum controls a handful of towns while the rebels hold the countryside. In Juba, the guerrillas of John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are just 25 miles away.

Juba's governor, Agnes Poni Lukudu, admits the town relies for its supplies on a monthly steamer and twice-daily flights from Khartoum. Even petrol and diesel have to be flown in. Not suprisingly, prices are nearly four times those in Khartoum. Hospital employees say high food prices lead to an average of 10 child deaths a week from starvation.

Khartoum officials say fighting is confined to the rebel groups themselves. Tribal divisions between the Dinka-dominated SPLA and the Nuer-dominated South Sudan Independence Army of Riek Machar have badly splintered the rebel movement.

"Southern Sudan is a disaster, a wasteland. The southerners are ripping each other apart," one foreign envoy said.

News in brief

60 drown as boat capsizes

At least 60 people drowned when an overcrowded boat carrying Hindu pilgrims capsized in the Ganges near Patna in eastern India yesterday, United News of India reported. Rescuers saved 15 passengers. — AP.

Karachi killings

The death of a suspected militant in police custody triggered a wave of violence in Karachi over the weekend that left at least 11 people dead. — AP.

Gas fatalities cut

Slovak authorities cut the death toll from a steel mill accident near Kosice to 11, compared with the previous toll of 13, as environmentalists accused them of reacting too slowly to a carbon monoxide cloud leaking from the plant. — Reuter.

Rwanda jail toll

Some 2,330 inmates have died over the past 15 months from disease in Rwanda's packed jails. Red Cross officials said yesterday. — Reuter.

EU Turkish deal faces veto

Kurdish curbs are likely to wreck a customs pact, writes **Jonathan Rugman** in Istanbul

EUROPEAN UNION and Turkish foreign ministers will meet in Luxembourg this week to finalise a customs deal which EU diplomats say is likely to be vetoed by the European Parliament.

EU governments see the customs agreement — due to begin on January 1 — as a means of establishing a bigger trading presence in Turkey.

Turkey has a record of dynamic economic growth and is seen as a commercial bridge between Europe and the former Soviet republics.

The pro-Islamic Welfare Party is currently running second in opinion polls in Turkey, with a general election set for December 24. If the customs deal can be approved before then, EU ministers hope this will enforce Turkey's westward orientation at an important time.

A victory in Europe would help the prime minister, Tansu Ciller, to win re-election.

But the European Parliament is alarmed at Turkey's human rights record — especially restrictions on free speech and the lack of cultural and political freedoms for the Kurdish minority — and has threatened to veto the deal.

"The chances of a customs union have certainly not improved," the leader of the parliament's Socialist group, Pauline Green, said last week when only two out of six Kurdish MPs convicted for aiding Kurdish separatist rebels were released from prison.

Germany's foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, called the appeal court's decision "disappointing" and said it did little to create the right atmosphere before the Strasbourg vote.

Turkey's chances improved this weekend, after the parliament in Ankara voted to change article 8 of the 1991 anti-terror law. More than 170 politicians, academics and journalists are behind bars for violating article 8, most of them for speaking out on cultural and political rights for the Kurds.

The majority can now expect to be released when their cases are reviewed within a month of the changes becoming law, but article 8 has not been scrapped.

Instead, maximum sentences will be reduced from five years to three and courts will be allowed to commute jail terms to fines. As a result, the novelist Yashar Kemal, aged 71, will probably not go to jail. MEPs will be less happy with a new clause allowing Turkish courts to close radio and television stations for up to 15 days if the broadcasters disseminate "separatist propaganda".

● Thirty-eight guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and four soldiers were reported killed in clashes across south-east Turkey over the weekend. More than 3,600 PKK members have been reported killed this year.

'Overrated' French chefs find their inflated egos cut to size

Paul Webster in Paris

THE reputations of many of France's top chefs, including Paul Bocuse, are more inflated than their souffles according to the latest edition of one of the country's top guides.

The 1996 Gault-Millau, a rival to the more staid Michelin, has demoted 18 out of 30 restaurant cooks who were considered worth 19 toques rouges — chefs' hats — awarded out of a maximum of 20.

The guide's editor, Monique Pivot, said that Mr Bocuse's rating had been reduced from 19 to 17 because his cooking was considered old hat. She said: "We favour chefs who invent new tastes and are ready to take risks. Mr Bocuse's standards are still exceptionally high, but other top cooks have been demoted because their standards have dropped."

At his Lyon restaurant, Mr Bocuse remarked angrily: "Gault-Millau has its moods and likes sensation. Their inspectors are the grave-diggers of haute cuisine."

Among the 19-toque survivors was Joël Robuchon, generally considered the country's finest chef. But his Paris restaurant may be absent next year because he is to retire.

Advertisement

How to become a proofreader

by Trevor Horwood

Do you envy people who love their jobs? I did too, so a few years ago I looked for a way to combine my love of books with the need to earn a living. I was a successful sales manager, so I needed something that paid well.

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Israel's latest 'kill' has the Islamic Jihad baying for blood, reports **Derek Brown** in Jerusalem

Deadly cycle of revenge

Mossad's sure reach from which few can escape

THE clinically planned and executed murder of Fathi Shqaqi in Malta is the latest of a series of assassinations and abductions which Arab groups say make nonsense of Israel's claim to be the region's only democratic state.

Israel's secret services have built up a formidable knowledge of assassination and kidnap techniques which they have put to work with ruthless effect.

Although Israel has not acknowledged any hand in Shqaqi's killing, it has welcomed it and refused to deny responsibility for the death of one of its principal hate-figures.

Shqaqi was able to run the small but extremely violent Islamic Jihad movement from relatively comfortable exile in Damascus because Israel deported him in 1988. Since that gaffe, the security establishment had vilified and demonised him as an archetypal "terror boss" who faxed orders to kill to fanatical supporters in Gaza.

Of all Palestinian factional leaders in exile, Shqaqi was probably top of the Mossad (external secret service) hit-list.

Israel's ability to strike across the world was spectacularly demonstrated 35 years ago, when its agents spirited Adolf Eichmann, one of the greatest mass killers of the century, from Argentina to face trial and execution. It was the only death sentence carried out by Israel — by court order, that is.

More recently, many enemies of Israel have been attacked, lost their lives or freedom:

- In 1985 Israeli planes bombed the Palestine Liberation Organisation's headquarters in Tunis to avenge the killing of three Israelis in Cyprus by the PLO.
- In February 1988, three senior officers of Fatah, the main PLO faction, died when a sophisticated bomb destroyed a car in the Cypriot port of Limassol.
- In April 1988, commando forces stormed the house of PLO leader Khalil al-Wazir, better known as Abu Jihad, in Tunis and shot him dead.
- In 1989, Israeli troops ambushed and kidnapped a leading Islamist militant of the Hizbullah movement, Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, in south Lebanon. He is still in an Israeli prison.
- Israeli agents in 1992 killed a Hizbullah guerrilla Abbas Musawi in an ambush in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon.
- Islamic Jihad activist and journalist Hani Abed, aged 35, died in November 1994 when his car blew up in the Gaza Strip.

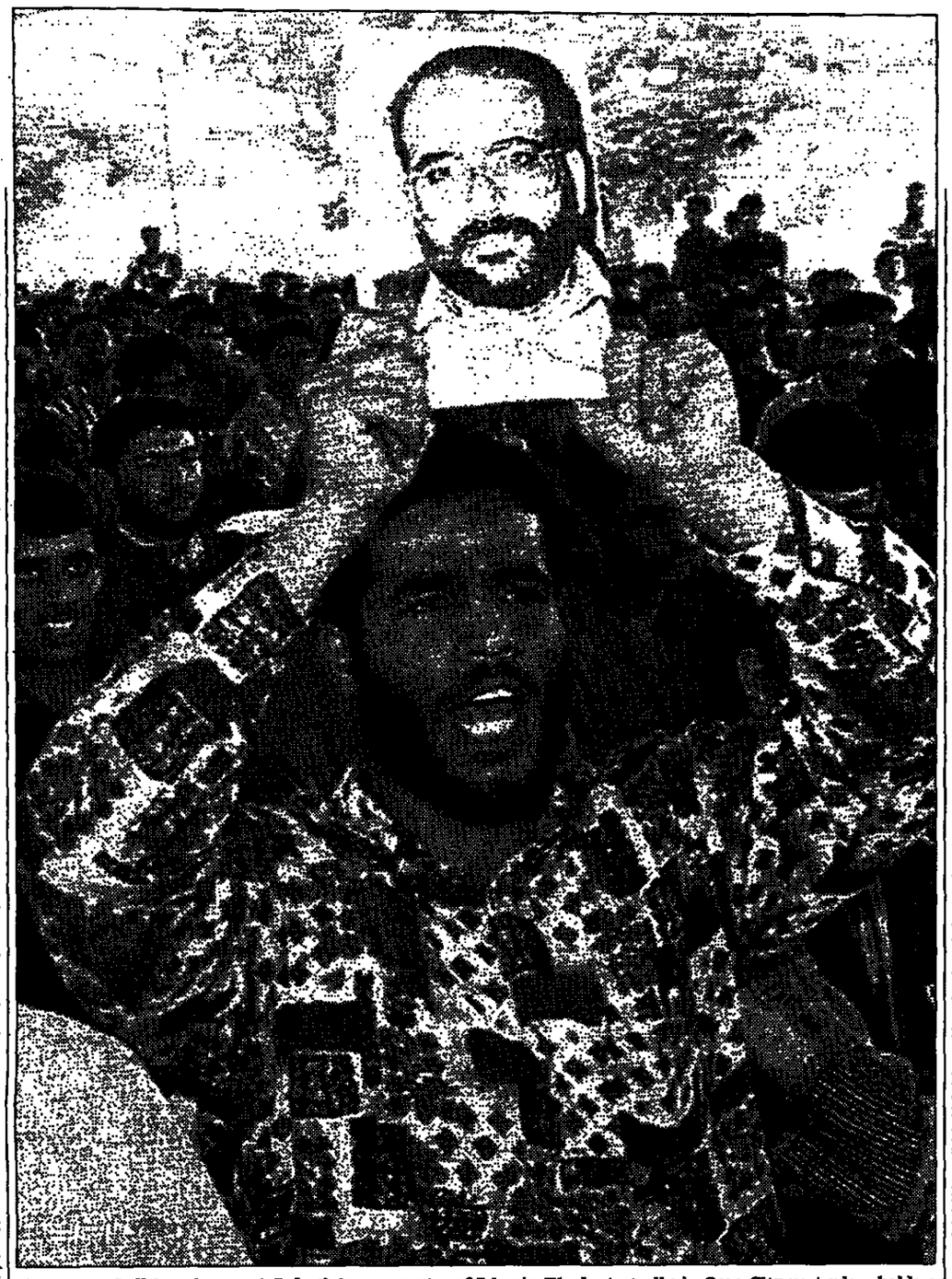
Throughout the 1970s, Mossad's priority was to locate the planners and perpetrators of the Munich massacre of 1972, when 11 Israeli Olympic athletes were killed. One by one, the PLO's attack team were tracked down and summarily executed.

In 1979 Mossad agents finally tracked down Ali Hassan Salameh, who had planned the Munich attack. He died in on a Beirut street when an Israeli car bomb exploded.

Mossad's robust approach to international laws and norms is not confined to those who take up arms against Israel. In 1988 it lured Mordechai Vanunu, a nuclear technician who had blown the whistle on Israel's weapons capability, to Rome, then spirited him to Tel Aviv, where he was sentenced to 18 years in prison, in solitary confinement.

In the occupied territories, Israeli undercover army and secret police units have for years summarily executed wanted men, armed and otherwise.

In November last year, a leading member of Shqaqi's Islamic Jihad faction, Hani Abed, was blown up by a sophisticated car booby trap in Gaza. Israel made no claim of responsibility. It did not have to.



Vengeance shall be mine ... A Palestinian supporter of Islamic Jihad, at a rally in Gaza City yesterday, holds a photograph of his leader, Fathi Shqaqi, who was assassinated in Malta by Israel's secret services PHOTOGRAPH: ADEL HANA

Refugee camp doctor who became a master of terror

ISLAMIC Jihad is one of the smaller and more ruthless of the plethora of armed groups waging war on Israel and the region's slow and painful progress to peace.

Fathi Shqaqi, who founded the group and led it from Damascus, was a paediatrician. Born in a refugee camp in Rafah in the Gaza Strip in 1952, he became profoundly influenced by Islamist ideology while studying in Cairo.

Back in Gaza, he found ready recruits in the squalid camps for his austere but fiery brand of Islam, heavily flavoured by his admiration for the Khomeini movement in revolutionary Iran.

The Palestinian version of Islamic Jihad, one of several bearing the name, was formed in 1983 and almost immediately began to make a bloody mark. It first victim, an Israeli student, was stabbed to death in Hebron on the West Bank.

Stabbings by lone activists became a hallmark, especially after the eruption of the intifada at the end of 1987. Recently the group has taken up a more grisly weapon: the suicide bomb.

In the past year, four Islamic Jihad "martyrs" have killed 30 Israelis, most soldiers. In the most spectacular operation, two bombers blew themselves up at a bus stop near Tel Aviv in January, killing 20 soldiers and a civilian.

Support is limited and heavily concentrated in the Gaza Strip, where the group plays second fiddle to the bigger and better-organised Hamas movement.

But, not least because of Shqaqi's close links with Iran and Libya, Islamic Jihad has disproportionate financial backing. Shqaqi also enjoyed Syria's tacit patronage — he had lived in Damascus since 1988.

Since the advent of self-rule in Gaza, Islamic Jihad has at least twice teetered on the brink of civil war with the Palestine Liberation Organisation-run Palestinian Authority. Eleven months ago its supporters accused the PLO of "collaborating" with Israel, after the assassination of its local leader, Hani Abed.

Dozens of Islamic Jihad activists have been arrested in Gaza after the group's attacks on Israeli targets. Every wave of arrests brings threats of dire revenge against Israel, the PLO and anyone seen to stand in the way of the tiny but ultra-violent group.

News in brief

Ex-minister sought over SA hit-squad

ARREST warrants have been issued for the former South African defence minister, Magnus Malan, and 10 other ex-military officers, for a 1987 hit-squad attack that killed 13 black people, a senior official said yesterday. "The warrants for Magnus Malan and others have been issued but not executed. Hopefully he and all the others will be in court on Thursday." Tim McNally, KwaZulu-Natal's attorney-general, said.

Mr McNally, who has been accused of failing to act against "third force" leaders, said the papers would not be ready before then — a day after the country's first all-race local elections. The move looked certain to fuel tensions between the government and white rightwingers who demand amnesties for perpetrators of violence under apartheid.

The warrants are in connection with an attack in 1987 on an African National Congress-aligned activist's home in KwaMakutha, south of Durban, in which 13 people — including several women and children — were killed. The Rapport newspaper said the warrants covered two former defence chiefs, Kat Liebenberg and Jannie Geldenhuys.

Meanwhile, President Nelson Mandela, battling black apathy and rising white fear of crime, urged all South Africans to vote in the local elections. — *Michael Roddy, Johannesburg.*

Greek press defiant

THE Greek press baron, George Kouris, vowed last night to continue his campaign to oust Dimitra Liani, the country's first lady, two days after a public prosecutor ordered his arrest for printing a front-page picture that portrayed her as a lesbian.

"I will go on publishing shocking revelations about her until she withdraws from the politicial scene," said Mr Kouris who emerged after 48 hours in hiding. "She is very dangerous and has surrounded Andreas Papandreou with thieves and liars."

The publisher spoke after an Athens court convicted another newspaper proprietor, Makis Psomiades, for publishing the same photograph in the daily Onoma. Mr Psomiades was allowed to pay off his 16-month prison sentence. — *Helena Smith, Athens.*

Leniency for maid who killed

FILIPINA maid Sarah Balabagan, spared from execution in the United Arab Emirates, is expected to face a light jail term for killing her employer when an appeal court delivers a verdict today. Sheikh Biy'a Bin Saliq, chief judge of the Al-Ain Islamic Sharia appeal court, has told Reuters that she is likely to face a short prison term. That could effectively mean freedom for the young maid who has served 15 months in prison during her trials.

Earlier this month the dead man's family dropped their demand for Balabagan's execution in exchange for £26,000 in blood money. — *Reuter, Abu Dhabi.*

González 'should stand trial'

A MAJORITY of Spaniards believe the prime minister, Felipe González, should face trial for the anti-ETA dirty war run by government hit squads which killed 27 people in the 1980s, according to an opinion poll published yesterday.

The survey in the El Mundo daily showed 57 per cent believed Mr González should be tried, but only 15 per cent thought he would actually go to court. Nearly a third believed the then interior minister, José Barrionuevo, would be tried. Congress has to decide whether to lift Mr Barrionuevo's parliamentary immunity. — *Reuter, Madrid.*

Blast leaves trail of havoc



PEOPLE remove debris after a lorry bomb exploded in a residential area east of Algiers yesterday, killing at least six people, injuring 83 others — 10 seriously — and destroying a police stationand a five-storey residential building.

The bomb left a crater about 20 yards wide and one yard deep and broke windows as far as 300 yards from the explosion. Authorities closed off the area in Rouiba, nine miles east of Algiers, and began a search for the culprits.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack. The Armed Islamic Group, the most radical rebel organisation fighting Algeria's military-backed regime, has claimed responsibility for some bombings and assassinations in the past and is active in the Rouiba region. — *AP, Rouiba.*

Bloody advance in Sri Lanka

MORE than 70 people were killed in fighting between Tamil rebels and advancing troops in northern Sri Lanka yesterday, the military said. "Troops came across well fortified trenches and minefields," a military communiqué said. "Terrorists fired mortars on to the advancing troops and as a result the advance progressed slowly."

The fighting occurred in the latest push in Operation Riviresa, an offensive launched 12 days ago by three divisions of troops against Jaffna, stronghold of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Two Roman Catholic priests from Jaffna said in Colombo that Operation Riviresa was driving civilians into the arms of the rebels. They told reporters that civilians were suffering "indiscriminate shelling" by the armed forces. — *Reuter, Colombo.*

Housewives unite

CONSERVATIVE "housewives" ended their first world congress in Buenos Aires at the weekend, calling for more respect and cash for women to stay at home, but with Latin American and European women disagreeing on sex education.

Over 700 traditionalist wives from 11 countries attended the three-day conference in Argentina, which the organisers hope is the beginning of a drive to grab some of the limelight in a world scene they say is dominated by men or feminists.

The final congress document was delayed by wrangling between Latin Americans and Europeans, who were in favour of school sex education, but delegates said it would call for more social welfare to let women opt out of the workforce.

"One of the resolutions is that the mother, the housewife, is basic for the family, the society and the nation. And then we say we need money for time to take childhood, time to take care of older people," Siglinde Porsch, president of the German Housewives' Federation, said. — *Reuter, Buenos Aires.*

Quebec duellists brace for final showdown

Clare Trevena in Montreal and Jonathan Freedland

LIKE a latter-day Moses, with a cane for a shepherd's crook, Lucien Bouchard dreams of leading his people today to the promised land. Standing in his way is Jean Chrétien, the man Quebec separatists revile as a Judas.

The two men have duelled across the despatch box in the Canadian parliament for nearly two years. Mr Chrétien as prime minister, Mr Bouchard as founder of the separatist Bloc Québécois and leader of the opposition.

In today's referendum on Quebec's independence, they meet for the ultimate showdown, a grudge match to decide the future of the country and their own careers.

During last-minute campaigning yesterday in Beauport, near Quebec City, Mr Bouchard described the vote as a "small step" in the history of the province.

"I think Quebec will vote 'Yes' to shoulder all its responsibilities," told a flag-waving audience. "The Quebec people will speak tomorrow. Tomorrow the speeches will end. Listen to yourselves," he told the crowd.

He urged voters to ask themselves: "Is Quebec big enough for me? Am I big enough for Quebec? If the answer is Yes, then vote 'Yes' on the sheet tomorrow."

Both politicians were born in smalltown, rural Quebec — Mr Chrétien the 18th of 19 children, Mr Bouchard the son of a wagon driver. It is the separatist leader who has become that rarest of creatures in Canadian politics: a charismatic leader.

The question

THE following is the official translation from French of the question Quebec voters will be asked in today's referendum.

"Do you agree that Quebec should become sovereign, after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership, within the scope of the bill respecting the future of Quebec and of the agreement signed on June 12, 1995? Yes/No."

The reference is to the bill introduced in the Quebec assembly in September, which sets out a framework for sovereignty. The June 12, 1995 agreement is a declaration for sovereignty by the Parti Québécois, Bloc Québécois and Action Democratique du Québec. — Reuter.

Whenever Mr Bouchard appears, hobbling after a flesh-eating disease led doctors to amputate half his left leg last year, crowds flock to him. They chant his name and cheer his earthy rhetoric, bellowing a collective *"Oui"* (Yes) when he asks whether Quebec wants to be free.

His message is compelling: the province has been under English-Canadian tutelage too long, it will be Lower Canada no more. "Let us Quebeckers recognise ourselves for what we are, a people, a vibrant country — proud, welcoming and confident," he said in a Canada-wide television address last week.

Later, he inflamed a 12,000-strong crowd in Montreal's Verdun Auditorium. Flat-capped truckers, widows in berets, leather-clad bikers and grungy students with multiply-pierced ears all stood together in the evening rain for a glimpse of him.

Mr Bouchard is the champion of Quebec nationalism, but he will not head its new government if it breaks free today. That duty will fall to the older, pompous figure of Jacques Parizeau, Quebec's premier. Mr Bouchard will head talks to form a "partnership" between Canada and a newly-independent Quebec.

Such talks would be with Mr Chrétien, who argues that as Canada's prime minister, he is proof that Quebeckers are far from oppressed. Indeed, Canada has been ruled by French-speakers for all but three of the past 27 years.

In the closing days of this neck-and-neck contest, Mr Chrétien has dispensed with calm warnings about the economic costs of separation to appeal to Quebeckers' pride in a united Canada. To preside over the loss of 25 per cent of Canada's people would almost certainly doom his career.

But the prime minister has little credibility in his native province. As a member of Pierre Trudeau's Liberal government in 1982, he engineered the "repatriation" of the Canadian constitution from Britain without Quebec's consent — long regarded by "sovereigntists" as an unforgiveable betrayal.

Mr Bouchard's enemies say he is an opportunist, who was happy to serve in Brian Mulroney's Tory cabinet. Supporters say his resignation in 1990 — over Quebec's rights — was a heroic sacrifice.

Economics briefing, page 11

CELLPHONES DIRECT
AIRTIME DIRECT
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Across the water, far from the land they love, two women are fighting the war of Clinton's ear.
Martin Walker
G2 page 5

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Public Interest

Why Major can't stop leaks

MINISTERS are upset. Too many confidential documents have been ending up in the Guardian's hands. Now, according to yesterday's Sunday Times which lists four of the six official documents which we have received in the past six weeks, the Prime Minister has a new master plan to plug Whitehall's gaping holes. He's ordered ministers to write fewer confidential memos and to restrict their circulation. That will be as unsuccessful as his cone hotline. Whitehall cannot survive without its paper mountains.

There has been much tut-tutting among friends of the Government. There is much high-minded talk of the damage which leaks cause to policy-making — disrupting the smooth operation of government, undermining trust between ministers and civil servants, and generating a reluctance to look at all options. Poppycock. British governments — of all colours — have been obsessed with secrecy. No other Western government has so many legal tentacles with which to apply gags to the media — official secrets, contempt, plus the law of confidentiality developed by government lawyers in their fight to prevent the Guardian and Observer reporting on the "Spycatcher" case and the escapades of Britain's security services. A fourth tentacle — Public Interest Immunity certificates — as we explain in the leader below is now under challenge, but leaks remain one of the few ways at present of generating genuine public debate.

It is quite ludicrous that vital facts and policy papers — on education, the police, immigration, social security and lottery disbursements — are kept confidential as if some foreign powers were intent on seizing them. On each of the issues which we have exposed, the people have a right to be informed. Secrecy is a recipe for bad decision-taking because it fails to force ministers to face all the arguments. There is no one quite so blind as an ideological band in confined conversation with each other. Democracy demands debates take place *before* decisions are taken — not afterwards.

Remember John Major was the only contender for Mrs Thatcher's crown in 1992 who did not come out in favour of open government. Since then, all he has been ready to concede is the tiniest opening of Whitehall's iron shutters: publication of cabinet committee membership plus a new code giving individuals a right to ask for information — but providing Whitehall with numerous escape clauses to escape from its new obligation. Ironically, so few people are aware of the code that the number of requests to most departments has been minuscule. Nothing will really change until Britain endorses a freedom of information act giving the media access to government information. Australia and Canada have demonstrated that this long-practised American procedure is perfectly adaptable to a parliamentary system. Meanwhile, there is one front on which the Prime Minister could make an unequivocal signal: the need for all MPs to disclose their consultancy contracts and the payments which they receive from them. Some Tory MPs are threatening to resign if this Nolan recommendation is adopted next week. Time to call their bluff.

Public Interest Two

What's the point of claiming immunity?

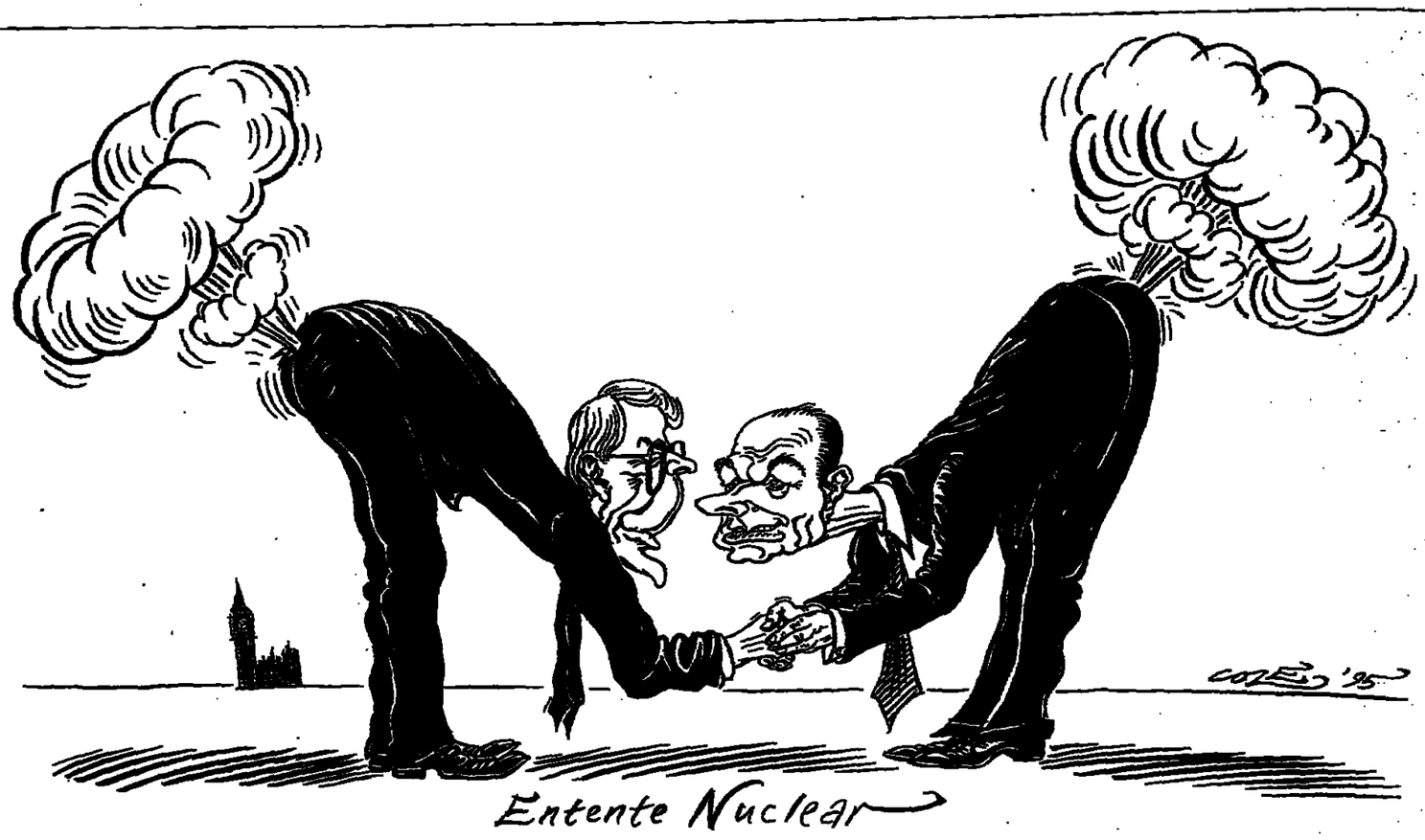
OVER THE PAST eight weeks, we have been engaged in exhausting, though far from exhaustive, correspondence with Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. It was sparked off by a report in this newspaper — almost identical to reports elsewhere in the media — about a ruling in the Court of Appeal in a case brought by four former executives of Orditec, a military engineering firm, who were convicted of illegally selling equipment to Iraq in 1989. Mr Howard, with Douglas Hurd, then foreign secretary, and John Howley, head of the Metropolitan Police Special Branch, signed Public Interest Immmunity certificates, asserting the right to keep documents confidential because they fell into certain categories, including official advice to ministers and the activities of the security and intelligence agencies. PII certificates were used, notoriously, in the Matrix Churchill arms-to-Iraq trial.

After more than three hours of discussion in chambers, with the press excluded, Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, announced that the court had agreed to disclose most of the material covered by the PII certificates. All the journalists who were present reported that the court had overruled the PII claims. That seemed to be the logical conclusion. Not so, responded an angry Mr Howard; on the contrary, the court *upheld* the PII claims. In other words, Mr Howard was happy for the documents to be disclosed to the appellants. We are glad to set the record straight.

But what was the point of claiming Public Interest Immunity in the first place? It is a waste of the court's time. Mr Howard suggests that ministers have a duty to make the claims. But in the past ministers have not claimed PII on identical categories of documents when it suited them not to do so, as evidence to the Scott inquiry confirmed. And as Sir Richard Scott put it to Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General: "If [a minister] doesn't really mind whether [documents] are going to be disclosed and he doesn't think there is going to be any damage to the public interest, then why should he claim PII? What is the point?" A good question. (Andrew Leithead, an assistant Treasury solicitor, conceded at the inquiry that PII certificates were often used simply out of "administrative convenience".)

In response to a suggestion that PII certificates should be published to avoid misunderstandings, Mr Howard says: "That would do the very damage which PII claims seek to prevent", a suggestion which seems odd given his earlier argument that disclosure of documents covered by his PII claim in the Ordtec case would *not* cause any damage. Anyway, PII certificates have never included specific information. They consist largely of vague generalities, dressed up in suitably arcane legal language. They are presented by officials to ministers — as Malcolm Rifkind, Mr Howard's cabinet colleague, conceded to the Scott inquiry — "in a standard form".

Douglas Hogg, another of his cabinet colleagues — and a QC, in common with Mr Howard and Mr Rifkind — said on BBC television last year that if people said the law covering PII certificates was "an ass", he was "inclined to think it probably is". Sir Richard, in his report, will certainly have a lot to say about the way ministers and government lawyers have used the PII system. Perhaps that explains Mr Howard's present sensitivity.



Letters to the Editor

School daze

WHAT on earth is David Blunkett thinking about? (Homework hours quota proposed, *Guardian*, October 28). Not content with the barbarous notion that children should be forced to sit and do schoolwork for hours every day when their time would obviously be much better spent running around and climbing trees, he now seems to think that he can prescribe what kids should do out of school as well! I hope this idiotic proposal will be treated with the contempt it deserves, but I fear that it will become just another part of this country's increasingly fascistic approach towards education. When will we realise that kids have lives of their own?
Roland Anderson.
Head of Humanities,
Summerhill School,
Leiston, Suffolk.

Drug denial

AS researcher to the Mersey regional health at the time, I refute the allegation relayed by your reporter (The smack doctor, October 26) that Dr Marks passed up the opportunity to show that legalisation worked. He was thwarted at every turn by the health authority despite diligent scientific efforts by him, his colleagues, and the police. All facts to hand suggest the health authorities *feared* independent evaluation would support the prescribing of heroin and that this would be a political embarrassment.
Russell Newcombe.
3D Research,
25 Halkyn Ave, Liverpool 17.

Pride and pomp

WHAT a pompous response to our current Pride and Prejudice issued from academe (Letters, October 28). I have enormously enjoyed the production and admire all the thought that has gone into it. While a TV production cannot reproduce the irony in Jane Austen's writing, it can, and does, present the unspoken. Two small mistakes might have been avoided: Dr Darcy's mother was Lady Anne (sister to Lady Catherine), not "Mrs Darcy", and the two boys fishing at Pemberley carried rods with reels.
(Dr) Anne D Wilson.
Faculty of Arts,
University of Birmingham.

Human rights at home

WHY is it that only the *right* stands up against a flagrant violation of human rights, as proposed in the Homes and Domestic Violence Act? If someone is violent then this is a crime and it needs to be dealt with. Instead, it is proposed that where there is a "suspicion" that a woman's health might be impaired, a man can be removed from their home by a court where there is no jury, with doors locked to the public, where the press is forbidden to enter, with no effective remedy for perjury and few rights of appeal.

Why is the left so blinkered by political correctness?
Colin Cooper.
Eugen Hockenjos.
Batchelor Street,
London N1.

THE case of Susan O'Brien (October 29) highlights the shortcomings of the Hague Convention in failing to protect women and children fleeing across international boundaries from physically and sexually abusive relationships.

Like large numbers of other British women each year, Ms O'Brien was deemed to have technically abducted her children and was therefore forced by the High Court to return to her estranged husband's country. Her case also illustrates the unintentional callousness of a system that allows a British court to send British mothers and children away to fight custody cases with seemingly worthless undertakings (eg, on unsupervised access) that are frequently broken by the estranged male partner, and with no guarantees for financial assistance once any custody hearings commence.

Today, a new pressure and support group, Polo (Protect Our Little Ones), has been launched by relatives and friends of women caught up in such legal and personal nightmares. Polo has identified four fundamental flaws in the current operation of the Hague Convention:

- The welfare of the child is *not* of paramount importance in arriving at decisions;
- Insufficient use is made by British courts of Articles 12 and 13 of the convention, which could be vital in either refusing or deferring a deportation on the grounds of the children's welfare;
- Undertakings made in British courts are poorly monitored and commonly broken;
- Many countries, including those with the largest number of affected British women (Australia and the US), frequently fail to provide legal aid, leaving mother and children in a desperate financial situation.

To address these issues, Polo is campaigning for a reform of the Hague Convention whereby the primacy of the child's welfare is incorporated along similar lines to the principles contained in Section I of the Children Act 1989.

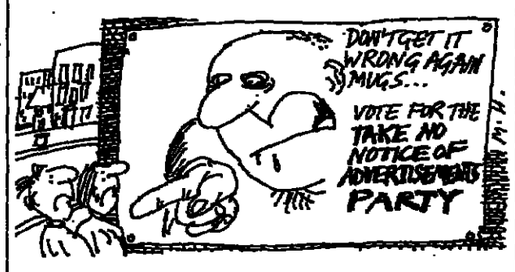
The second major need which is not being addressed is practical and emotional support for the families of such women and children. The sense of powerlessness and isolation that affects families in Britain while a prolonged, harrowing and expensive court action takes place in a distant country can be devastating. To counter such problems, Polo has set up a contact telephone number (01905 778578) for anyone affected by such loopholes in the Hague Convention or who might be keen to help fight for a change in both the Convention and its implementation
Paul Simon.
Hamilton Road,
Reading, Berks.

Priority-setting essential to the health of modern healthcare

FAR from being secret, the meeting on NHS priorities you describe in your lead article (October 27) was an open and frank discussion between those who we, as a society, ask to make difficult and sometimes emotionally-charged decisions on our behalf. As your leader column on the same day pointed out, such decisions have always been taken — since the NHS was founded and before. The critical difference now is that we all know more about what is being decided and by whom. What's more, we are asking those involved in the decisions — doctors, managers and even the patients — to justify them on television and through the pages of the national press.

Discussing *how* such decisions are taken should not be confused with *what* those decisions might be. There is no change in NHS policy, which is that decisions about an individual's health must be taken by the doctors and the patient and based on clinical need. Just as decisions about how to spend NHS resources will continue to be taken by health authorities based on the needs of their local population. We are discussing how to ensure that the difficult balance between the needs of the individual and the needs of the community is well understood by managers, clinicians and the public alike. Part of using our resources to best effect is making sure that the treatments we offer work. There is no intention to provide a national "hit list" of treatments which will not be funded by the NHS. This would effectively rule out the other vital partner in the decision, the patient. But rooting out demonstrably ineffective treatments will mean we can invest more in new treatments.

Setting priorities is a fact of life in any healthcare system anywhere in the world. What we are trying to do is to make sure that in the NHS, the best decisions are taken based on the best available evidence.
Alasdair Liddell.
Planning director,
NHS Executive,
Department of Health.



The City muscles in

THE Referendum Party's emergence appears to be a sinister attempt to scuttle the continuing convergence of Europe.

There should be no hiding the fact, the group involved in forming this new party represents big business and the city financial institutions that always appears hell-bent on stopping the further progress of the European Union.

Adopting a political mantle of convenience and using their huge financial muscle to do this is totally undemocratic. It should be banned.

The Government should take a lead and discourage this blatant attempt by the city to interfere with the democracy of Europe.
JP Nolan.
16 Huntsmans Close,
Bridgnorth,
Shropshire.

Falklands farce

NORMALISATION of relations between Britain and Argentina is an admirable objective — provided it is founded on morality rather than expediency (An Argentinian rapprochement must sovereignty of the Falklands remain unnegotiable? Guardian leader, October 25). The Falklands are neither ethnically, culturally nor geographically Argentinian. Nor are they historically so, apart from the four years between 1829 and 1833.

The award of joint sovereignty over the islands might temporarily divert the attention of the Argentinian electorate from the relative economic and political decline of their country over the past 60 years, but that would not be a valid reason for granting it, even if unhappy memories of the illegal aggression of 1982 were not still fresh in the minds of the islanders.
Lord Monson.
House of Lords.

A Country Diary

OLD WESTMORLAND: One of the books in my mountain library describes the great ravine of High Cup Nick as "one of the wonders of the British Isles", yet few of my friends have ever seen it and most have no idea where it is. It lies about five miles north-east of Appleby and you get a splendid view of it motoring over Orton Moor to the county town — a great, saucer-shaped crater a few miles to the south of Cross Fell and the huge white "golf ball" on Great Dun Fell that was gouged out of the northern Pennines at the end of the Ice Age. I had explored it several times, and even scrambled on some of the ricketty pinnacles — but not for at least 40 years. So on a recent bright October morning, with needle-sharp visibility in every direction, two of us went to have a look at the place to refresh my memory. The approach from the lovely village of Dufton along a section of the Pennine Way, into quite a biting east wind, was easy and straightforward, so that in an hour or so we were in sight of the bite into the fells which must be about two miles deep. Some of the pinnacles are interesting — a local cobbler is said to have soled a pair of shoes on the tiny, airy summit of one of them. But one of the most remarkable features is the stone wall that seems to climb almost vertically up the side of the gorge for nearly 1,000 feet — a fitting monument to the men who built it hundreds of years ago. Just beyond the Nick is Maize Beck, marked "Danger Area" on the map, where two walkers died many years ago, trying to cross in flood conditions, the body of one of them being swept downstream for 10 or 12 miles and finishing up trapped among boulders at the top of High Force. Notices now warn of the danger and draw attention to an important footbridge. One of the delights of visits to these northern hills is the return in late afternoon or early evening straight into the westering sun; most of the Lakeland hills, from Wild Boar Fell to the buttresses of Blencathra, stretched — a progression of pinnacles — along the horizon.
A HARRY GRIFFIN

Knocked senseless by the boxing debate

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

ACCORDING to Private Eye's meticulous research, at least one person is bored to death each week by the traditional sport of "debating the merits of banning boxing." Lord Gnome demanded an end to what he no doubt regarded as the degrading spectacle of two men standing toe-to-toe and exchanging platitudes. I rarely share His Lordship's view. But, after a week that began with my own contribution to the ritual slaughter, I am beginning to believe that the arguments about brain damage have a terrible side-effect. Otherwise rational men, who take part in the discussions, lose all sense of reason and grasp of logic.

The Panorama bout, in which I took part last Monday, was affected by only a mild dose of irrationality. A professor of neurosurgery brought a skull along to illustrate what happens inside the head when it is punched so hard that the contents rattle about. A succession of boxers then announced that they did not believe her. And a man in the audience accused me of hitting below the belt because I suggested that boxing is the only "sport" in which the participants aim to render each other unconscious.

None of the arguments had much influence on the audience. The few who had arrived with open minds could not resist the visual aid that the boxing enthusiasts had brought along. It was called Henry Cooper. The old champion sat — benign and immaculate — in the front row, an irresistible advertisement for all that he had ever done or been. Calling for a ban on boxing in his presence was like arguing for a republic in front of the Queen Mother.

But, it was only after the British Boxing Board of Control published its 12-point safety plan that we witnessed the true intellectual strength of the boxing lobby. Dr Adrian Whitestone (the medical officer of the BBBC), who had told me on Monday that footballers, jockeys and skiers all shared the boxers' risk of brain damage, announced that some fighters "would get the shock of their lives" when the new Magnetic Resonance Imaging scan began to take pictures inside their skulls. Frank Warren, the promoter who organised the fight in which young James Murray died, was even more positive about the benefits of MRI testing. "It will", he said, "affect a lot of boxers because it will measure if there is any brain damage."

Of course, it will only affect those fighters who are suffering from the results of cerebral bruising. Therefore, we must assume, on his own admission, that "a lot" of boxers have a problem. Would he say the same about footballers, jockeys and skiers? Does Dr Whitestone believe that participants in those three sports would find the results of MRI scanning as shocking as he expects them to be for boxers? And does either of these two men realise that, the more they promise to make boxing less dangerous, the more they reveal how dangerous it is?

At least Dr Richard, a neurosurgeon who is opposed to banning boxing — "had the grace to admit that injuries sustained in the ring upset him. But he went on to explain that he was opposed to statutory prohibition because he "had operated on more people who've been minding their own business in the streets and been hit on the head with a bottle than boxers." But, where I come from, hitting people on the head with bottles is prohibited already and, if it were not, there would be a lot more of it about.

> *Would I want a hole to be drilled in my head by a man who makes such daft comparisons?*

In any event, there are about 50 million citizens walking the streets of Britain and, as I was told ad nauseam last Monday, about 10,000 young men who either amused themselves or earned their living by attempting to render other young men unconscious.

So, what is the incidence of brain damage among pedestrians, and how does it compare with the frequency in boxing? What is the percentage risk of being knocked out for people who continue to mind their own business, as distinct from the actuarial probability that pugilists will end up flat on their backs? And would I want a hole to be drilled in my head by a man who makes such daft comparisons?

What is more, Sky Television does not pay £3.5 million for the privilege of filming innocent citizens being mugged. One day, it may. But it has not come to that yet. We do not glorify muggers by awarding them titles, presenting them with garish belts and interviewing them on chat shows. Nor do individuals, who call themselves sportsmen, eat and drink their way through three courses while they watch the skull and bottle-smashing that rightly concerns Dr Richard. And that IS a fair comparison. While James Murray was being beaten to death, dinner was served at the ringside tables.

I cannot even imagine that scene without feeling something that is very close to nausea. And I certainly have no doubt that what some of boxing's apologists will dismiss as effete, aesthetic objections are, in themselves, sufficient argument to justify a boxing ban. Perhaps, in a free society, young men do have the right to pound each other into insensibility — as long as the victims go cheerful and willing to their fate.

It may be — though I have my doubts — that there is no moral objection to the promoters in their safe front-row seats making a fortune out of the cut eyes, the broken noses and the damaged brain cells. But none of them is entitled to stage a spectacle which, in the language of the Obscene Publications Act, tends to deprave and corrupt. Bedamned to Lord Gnome, the argument must go on.

American Diary

Martin Walker

IT IS not easy, being a British beer-drinker in America, where the market is dominated by imports — Amstel from Holland, Lowenbrau from Germany, Australian Foster's, Canadian Labatt's and Dos Equis from Mexico.

So it has been a pleasure to see in American bars the white porcelain handle, decorated with a hunting scene, which signals Bass on tap. Its penetration of the market has been slow but steady, and Bass now sells over 250,000 barrels a year. Not much, in a market of 150 million barrels, but enough to ensure a decent pint in most cities.

Having started my Guardian career in Manchester, I was introduced to the local Boddington's beer by a crusty old news editor who smoked a foul pipe and kept a canary in his office. Whenever the canary fell off its perch, we opened a window or went to the pub. Strangeways in Manchester is known for the prison and for Boddington's brewery that was begun in 1778 as the city grew; it still gets the water from its own wells, 200 ft below ground.

So it was a great pleasure to see Manchester's finest beer introduced to the American market as the very latest in high technology, the only beer that brings an orgasm with every can. This is because of the widget. A little nitrogen capsule inside the can, the widget, generates fizz and gives Boddington's the proud head of creamy foam which enchants Americans.

I was well into the second pint when I noticed that it was having more effect than I remembered. "We brew it stronger for Americans," said Patrick Langan, who runs the export trade. "It's 3.8 per cent, but we beef it up to 4.8 per cent for the US. . . . It has become our brew-master's favourite. We'll be selling it in Britain as the export brand." He added: "It was the letters that did it. From the Brits who live over here. The letters kept piling up, saying why didn't we export cans. We got petitions from some pubs. There was one from the Red Lion in Santa Monica over in California, another in Miami and one up in Vermont. Heartrending, they were."

He made it sound like missionary work. And having been stuck in a traditional American bar where your choice is Bud, Bud Light and Bud Dry, I could sympathise. But one of the happiest social revolutions under way in America is that this land of beer heathens is undergoing a great conversion. You can hardly move for new micro-brews, and brew-pubs where they make the local beer on the premises. At the last American Beer Tasting Festival, they had over 400 of these new beers, with wonderful names like Pete's Wicked and Wild Goose and Dog's Breath.

The great tradition of American beer is at last recovering from Prohibition. This miserable experiment, like the licensing hours in British pubs, was a result of the first world war. In Britain, Lloyd George wanted to get the munitions workers out of the boozers. In the US, the prohibitionists claimed that alcohol wasted the grain that was needed for the troops and the cavalry at the front.

Congress passed the first law against the manufacture of alcohol in 1917, just after the US entered the war. Then they passed the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, outlawing all alcohol, including beer. It was finally ratified by three-quarters of the states in January 1919, when the war was over.

For 14 wretched years, as the Mafia waxed fat on bootlegging, the grand little breweries opened by Czech and German and British immigrants were all closed down. In 1933, when Prohibition was repealed on the grounds that the Great Depression meant the government needed the money from taxing booze, the new market was filled by the big breweries with their dreadful mass-produced beers.

And now the real beers are back. And in fits and starts, 1,500 cases a month in Boston, 800 a month in Atlanta, 1,000 a month in Washington and New York, the yellow and black colours of Boddington's are bringing Manchester's magic widgets to the biggest market of all.



Don't teach Labour leaders to suck eggs

Commentary

Mark Lawson

IN THE past decade, two parasitic new industries have grown up around the business of government. The first, notoriously, is spin doctoring — press control. The second, though still more common in America than in Britain, is the preparatory education of politicians through schools of government, candidate courses, leadership weekends.

Both of these rhinoceros-bird phenomena arise from the same concern: a certain despair with the raw material being thrown up by the polls. Indeed, if the former industry is spin-doctoring, then the latter is a kind of spin-midwifery, an attempt to convince the campaign babies in advance that the foot really does not belong in the mouth.

Already surrounded by the doctors, Tony Blair is now turning to the midwives. Shadow Cabinet members are to be despatched to Templeton College, a "management school". And so another Washington practice comes to Westminster and with it the questions — Can government be studied? Can men and women be schooled to rule?

Tony Blair may or may not be aware that the other British quasi-governmental institution to have sent its senior executives to a management-crammer is John Birt's BBC. Three exercises are still discussed by stunned alumni.

In the first, the students from Television Centre were divided into groups, given a fresh egg, a length of string and sent to an open third-floor window. The "project goal" was for the egg to end up, intact, on the ground. The wiseguy who picked up the egg, ran down stairs and shouted up "It's here!" is now reputedly working in commercial television. The second test involved every delegate telling a single joke to their assembled colleagues. The third involved small groups being driven to a mystery location on the moors and left there with an order to return to base using only map and compass.

It's fascinating to imagine the Shadow Cabinet taking part in these trials. The team led by Gordon Brown comes a distant last in the egg test because of the ever-prudent shadow chancellor's insistence on hard-boiling it for 10 minutes before risking it out of the window.

John Prescott's squad — already delayed by Jack Straw's insistent cries of "String that egg up! String it up! It's the only language they understand!" — is finally disqualified after the deputy leader throws it at Peter Mandelson, who, though not a delegate, has been spotted in the shadows of the country house hotel, murmuring into a portable phone. The group led by Mr Blair himself — though frequently interrupted by mysterious whispering calls to the leader's portable phone — eventually wins.

In the Outward Bound session of the weekend, Mr Blair's own team comes a disastrous last. Fellow-yompers report that the Labour leader threw away the compass and map and kept repeating: "Look for the Tories' footprints and walk in them."

In the report on the joke-telling seminar, most delegates are criticised for sending their spin-doctors on first to "give a few pointers about what we think you'll find is a real stonker." However, Delegate Prescott is highly commended for his amusing use of the rhetorical question construct: "What's the difference between John Birt and Tony Blair? One's a plonker who wastes time and money sending his staff on facile management training courses — and the other's Director-General of the BBC!"

Mr Blair would doubtless argue that the course for his would-be ministers will involve more formal lectures than psychological games. Certainly, in America, where everything from the composition of poetry to "refusal skills" (ie, how to say no) is now formally taught, seminars and lectures for future leaders are well established. The most prominent primer in power is offered by the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, which for many years has run courses for newly-elected senators, congressmen, mayors and governors.

There was probably laughter in the opposition leader's office last week when Tony Benn offered on television to run free seminars on the arts of government at the House of Commons for Mr Blair's team, but that is a far more sensible idea than Templeton College. Schooling on ruling is also available, as more venerable commentators have pointed out, in books, and in particular, from the political diarists. If the Labour leader

> The basic political rule is to pick your enemies carefully, and then hang on to them

is really worried about his cabinet virgins, he could give them Christmas presents of the new condensed single edition of the Benn diaries, Richard Crossman, Barbara Castle and Alan Clark, all of which are useful on the tedium, exhaustion and accidents of office — things autobiographies by the greats ignore.

I would also strongly recommend — though for a double-edged reason — The Haldeman Diaries, by the late HR Haldeman, published posthumously in America last year by Putnam. Haldeman was chief of staff to President Richard Nixon from the start of his first administration to the eve of his disgrace. This volume, too, is riveting on the unexplored boredom and inertia of power — the inane diplomatic handshakes, the aimless policy discussions — and offers ideas usefully challenging to Labour's emollient modernisers, such as: "There's nothing wrong with having certain elements against [you.] The basic political rule is to pick your enemies carefully, and hang on to them, but be sure they're the same ones."

Haldeman's book, though, also provides a timely corrective to the idea that the study of government is an unqualified good. He depicts Nixon as "the great student of power". The President was always quoting examples from his evening reading about Disraeli, Gladstone and De Gaulle. Yet the great student of democratic power became one of its greatest abusers.

I'm sure they don't use that interesting example at the Harvard School of Government, or, indeed, Templeton College. And Mr Blair might also note that the rise of government as an academic subject in America has coincided with a generation of leaders regarded as less trustworthy and competent than any before it. He sends his shadow ministers back to school because, presumably, he's worried about their lack of administrative experience after 16 years locked out of power.

But, in the current Republican race in America, Bob Dole, a lifelong senator, is burdened by his experience while General Colin Powell, who seems not even to have voted in the past, is attractive for his lack of it.

Freshness — and lack of implication in the mistakes of the last decade — is the best selling-card there is in the disgruntled politics of the moment, and the Labour leader shouldn't need an egg, string and an open window to teach him that.

Why Di should never ever have done it



Ros Coward

TORY backbenchers are getting hot under the collar about marriage and divorce again — just as the nation's number-one marital breakup lurches into a new phase. Charles is making an increasingly respectable woman of Camilla, whilst Diana is being criticised for letting her son William go to a teen rave party.

If ever a relationship exposed contradictions in the right's thinking, it is that of Charles and Diana. The right defends marriage because, in its pessimistic view of humanity, it keeps rampant males in check. But making divorce difficult simply creates relationships like the one that the great upholder of tradition, Prince Charles, clearly thought he could maintain indefinitely; a wife at home and a mistress on the phone. Even the most overwhelming obstacles — the threat to the Anglican church and the British constitution — won't stop a breakup. The fairy-tale marriage will eventually become the divorce from hell.

The right's current paranoia is believing that women come out on top in relationship breakdowns. This belief was explicit in last week's attempt to deny co-habitees the same property rights as married women. It underlies concerns about "palimony" and the furore about fathers' rights. But it is clear that divorce settlements can still subtly disadvantage the wife.

Any divorce settlement depends on power; who has the greatest assets and claims as well as who is the most plausible. Moral authority is crucial, something which even liberal reformers arguing for easy divorces may well be underestimating. In the royal settlement, Diana, the first wife, is emerging as a loser. Camilla is now appearing publicly with Charles, while Diana's status and behaviour is being represented as problematic. Increasingly, she is looking like the victim of a powerful patrician family manoeuvring to get a favourable settlement.

To republican friends, my view of Diana as victim seems hollow. To them, she is like any other overprivileged member of her class, only more dangerous because her humanity disguises the reality of that class's powers. Some think she is pernicious, an uneducated girl who has become an unfulfilled woman. I partly agree. I still possess a "Don't Do it Di!" badge which feminists wore at the time of the wedding. For reasons I don't fully understand, she chose to ignore us and has paid the price.

Yet it's hard not to sympathise. Charles's position will ultimately clarify and consolidate. Her future is bleak. He will be free to remarry. He may even win popular approval if he makes reality of the fantasy (created by Jonathan Dimbleby and the PR machine) of Camilla as his lifetime's love. He already has his sons for symbolic occasions, and seems set on inculcating them in patrician values, habits, and "sad" dress sense. Presenting himself as upholding the royal tradition, he could win total moral control over them.

In this divorce, where they don't have money worries, the "property" is the children — the same element that brings less elevated folk to the lawyers. At stake are adultery, betrayal and feelings of abandonment. What often matters in divorce is whose version of events is accepted and who has moral authority, particularly in the eyes of the children.

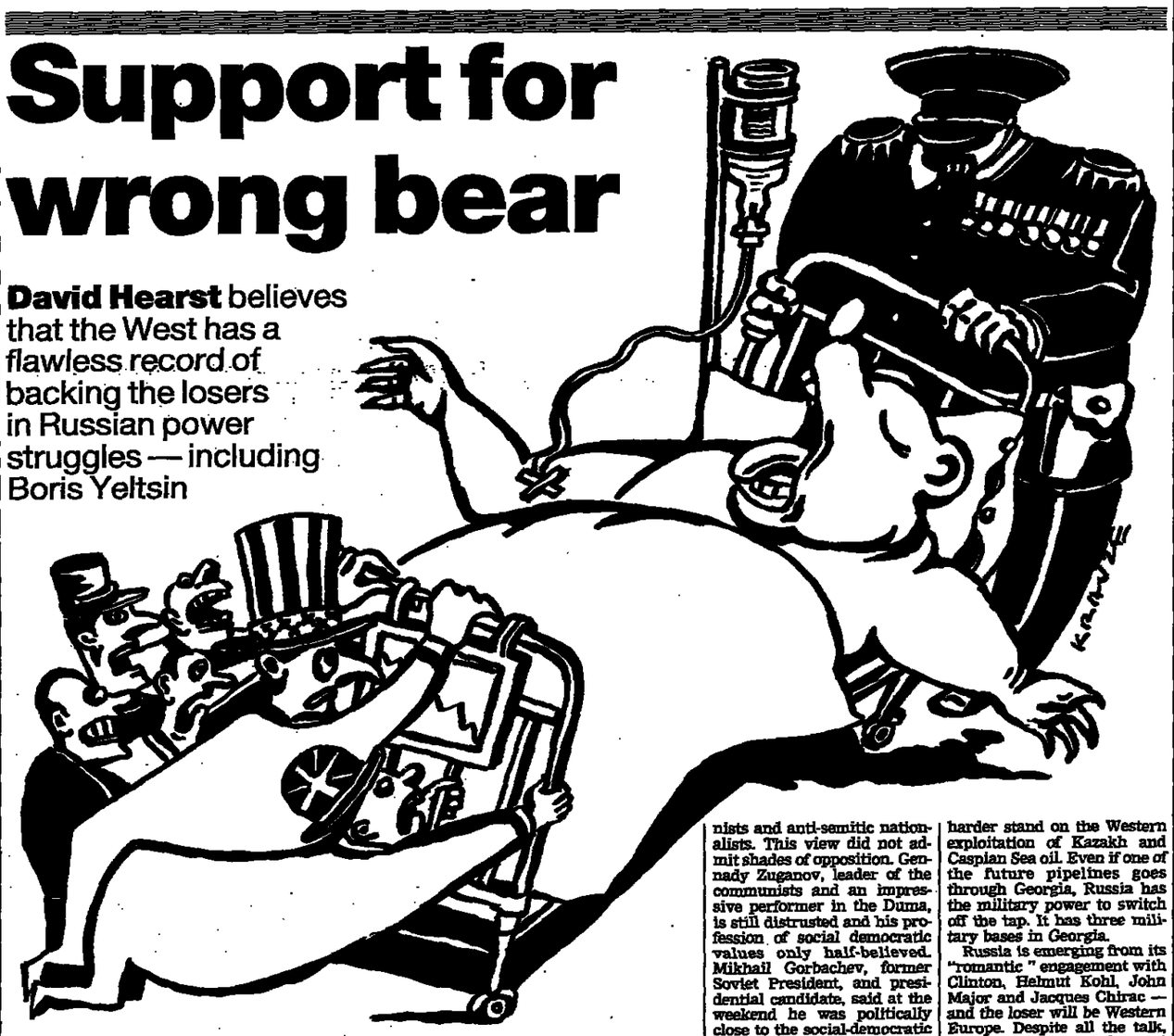
This is where Diana's position is difficult. She is "redundant" but, as mother of the future king, cannot be ignored. She will be under constant scrutiny for her maternal influence; blamed, as she was last week, for any decision. She can never be straightforwardly "good" — that would undermine Charles's moral claims. Diana is subject to the troubling projections which accompany the role of a displaced or marginal woman. She is seen as a disturbed and insatiable creature, because of her dealings with married men, her eating disorder, even her indulgence of her children.

Custody battles are often about wanting the children physically and about whose values will prevail. In Charles and Di's case the struggle is over the heir to the throne, so the investment in getting the divorce right is more than personal pride. There are also the investments of a powerful family, operating with antiquated views of lineage. The struggle is between the powerful and the relatively powerless over what kind of person (and man) William will become, and especially about what kind of relationship he will be allowed with his unsettling mother.

The royal family are playing out on a grand scale the divisions and competing definitions of any family involved in a divorce. If the right really want to know why women are not rushing to the altar, they need look no further than this royal spectacle. Charles is managing to get his hypocritical attitudes condoned and Diana is being subtly edged into an impossible position in relation to her children. If this can happen to such an ostensibly powerful woman, it does not make marriage look like a worth-while option for women. Di really shouldn't have done it.

Support for wrong bear

David Hearst believes that the West has a flawless record of backing the losers in Russian power struggles — including Boris Yeltsin



RUSSIA'S Defence Minister, General Pavel Grachev, blew up an empty US missile silo in Missouri at the weekend, an act of immense symbolic importance according to the State Department script-writers. The week before, Boris Yeltsin gave Bill Clinton a jacket which had both "Clinton '96" and "Yeltsin '96" written on it — a reference to the Russian leader's participation in presidential elections next year, which today seems optimistic.

Not for the first time, the US has made a show of support for Russian leaders who are on their way out. The president is in hospital. Grachev, known as a "marionette" by the rank-and-file, is a humiliated man. Yeltsin ordered him to appear before a court in a libel action against a journalist, when Grachev had vowed on television that he would not appear. Andrei Kozyrev, parodied as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Russia (rather than Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs), was similarly debased by Yeltsin's threats of sacking.

Grachev and Kozyrev are not bravely fighting communist and nationalist revanchism. They are political flotsam, only surviving by Yeltsin's wish. Yet these are the men with whom the West talks and on whom the West has constructed much of its foreign policy. The West is maintaining a noble tradition — a 100 per cent record of backing the losers in Russian power struggles.

The policy of the US and most European governments was built on assumptions which today look suspect; that the quicker Russia disarmed, the free market was installed and the the former Soviet republics were prised away from Moscow's influence, the safer the world would be. This policy was built on destroying the remaining economic links of the Soviet Union, in the belief that local economies and democracies would grow like green shoots in the graveyard. The free market would be wild at first, but wasn't it in Chicago in the twenties? Markets settle down and regulate themselves.

This was the reasoning of successive ambassadors in Moscow, complacent and confidently wrong. Privatisation, price liberalisation and mobile phones came to Russia but they did not bring democratic values, consumer movements and regulated behaviour based on law. On the contrary, as the political opposition grew, the West encouraged Yeltsin to make a challenge: he closed parliament and when he stormed it in 1993, he was backed to the hilt by his allies. The Economist argued then that the ends justified the means. If a democratic constitution came out of the conflict, then regrettable though conflict was, it was in a good cause. We can see now how stable this constitution is. Yeltsin lies sick and the only non-family person allowed to see him is not his prime minister, the head of parliament nor his chief political adviser, but his bodyguard, General Alexander Korzhakov — a bitter enemy of the constitutional heir, the prime minister.

Parliament is constitutionally weak and if the elections are allowed to go ahead, public opinion will return a house even more hostile to Yeltsin. The administration under Yeltsin is now the same size as it was in the days of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, its ranks swollen by defectors from each of Yeltsin's many political conflicts.

It has formed its own policy-making mass which rivals the government. The dual power structure that was the excuse for the closure of the old parliament has not been replaced by more effective government, but by an endless and sometimes contradictory set of decrees, very few of which are enacted.

All the rich courtiers whose dachas, cars, and Western bank accounts depend on the right man being in power, have an interest in making sure that the popular will (even if reflected in the polls) does not produce a president who will put them all in prison. Hence the problem of finding a successor.

So the West saw Yeltsin as the only guarantor of democracy and reform. They persistently misread the signals from the Russia people, who wanted reform, but with order, measure and control. Against Yeltsin, the West mentally constructed a solid opposition, the Red-Brown alliance of nostalgic communists and anti-semitic nationalists. This view did not admit shades of opposition. Gennady Zuganov, leader of the communists and an impressive performer in the Duma, is still distrusted and his profession of social democratic values only half-believed. Mikhail Gorbachev, former Soviet President, and presidential candidate, said at the weekend he was politically close to the social-democratic wing of the Communist party.

The West saw the destruction of the Soviet Union as the only guarantor of the sovereignty of the newly-independent states, when in fact their shaky and strife-ridden sovereignty has been exercised by the old Soviet *nomenklatura*. The latest astonishing returnee is Doku Zavgayev, the chairman of the Chechen-/Ingush Supreme Soviet, which Moscow is happy to install in Chechenia, despite Muscovite loathing of Soviets.

SO IT is not difficult to write a post-Yeltsin foreign policy for the Russian Federation. Even pragmatic nationalists, like the centre-left Yuri Skokov, have to consider state support for hi-tech industries and the military industrial lobby; they will have to control again the export of oil, gas and raw materials to the West in favour of producing cheap energy for the domestic market. If Russia has lost its Eastern European market for arms, it will sell arms, nuclear reactors, and aeroplanes in China, India, Iran, Iraq and Arab states.

Its antipathy to NATO will be even greater and its disarmament policies will be directly affected by US decisions to develop a real anti-ballistic-missile defence system. The pressure is already on to stop the destruction of multi-warheaded ICBMs until US policy is clear.

As Siberian and Arctic oil gets more expensive to exploit, Russia will take a much harder stand on the Western exploitation of Kazakh and Caspian Sea oil. Even if one of the future pipelines goes through Georgia, Russia has the military power to switch off the tap. It has three military bases in Georgia.

Russia is emerging from its "romantic" engagement with Clinton, Helmut Kohl, John Major and Jacques Chirac — and the loser will be Western Europe. Despite all the talk, the European Union has not invested in one major capital project which could be seen by the Russian public as an emblem of a new relationship. Russia is not building a gas pipeline to the West. Russia's substantial aerospace industry is not contributing to a new European airbus. Even the European Space Agency's co-operation is double-edged — NASA and the ESA are getting very cheaply 20 years of Russian experience in space station operation.

The West is already reforming its policy objectives over Russia. Western embassies are not popular in Moscow — the US one had a rocket grenade fired at it recently. Conservative, formerly anti-Soviet voices, in the US are already pressing for a tougher policy with Russia, arguing that the US should not be bound by the ABM treaty, made with a state that no longer exists. Perhaps Russia should not have destroyed thousands of tanks on the basis of a treaty signed by a state that no longer exists.

If nationalists return to political power and the dark continent gets more authoritarian and gloomy, Western Europe will have squandered a historic opportunity to influence and befriend ordinary Russians; not a failure of money or investment but a mighty failure of the imagination, an inability to see the world in anything but our own values and terms. In a year, we could see a Russian Defence minister mixing the concrete for a new missile silo, not blowing one up.

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Phil Sidey

Turning on local radio



Whirlwind start . . . Phil Sidey at Radio Leeds, where the basis for Britain's local radio network was formed

PHIL SIDEY, who has died aged 69 on a walking holiday in the Peak District, was a brilliant radio and television manager with a zest for mischief which the BBC never suppressed.

In a whirlwind of talking birds, local politicians gargling their manifestos and other headline-hooking stunts, he launched Radio Leeds in 1968, the small and eccentric seed of today's local radio network. He later became station head of BBC Midlands in Birmingham and pioneered British daytime TV with Pebble Mill At One.

Sidey's Radio Leeds was the greater achievement, an original creation which took full advantage of a classic BBC vacuum over what the new "community stations" were supposed to do. While senior staff in London argued about the idea, introduced in part to meet the Wilson government's love of novelty and new technology, Sidey got on with creating a "people's radio", which thumbed its nose at everyone — then allowed them to talk back.

Yorkshire caution and conservatism, which almost sank the ship on its launch by halving the city council's agreed contribution of £52,000, was melted by the station's eagerness to air all points of view. At the same time — just as people enjoy seeing familiar backdrops in TV drama — Leeds citizens relished continual references to the Town Hall, the Headrow, Elland Road and Gipton pouring out of their radios.

Sidey used his wily flair to particular advantage, evading a Yorkshire Evening Post ban on mentioning the station — as a media rival — by buying a greyhound and naming it Radio Leeds. He also took on the daughter of the then somewhat sceptical Conservative shadow spokesman on broadcasting as an enthusiastic student helper. He could have been Arnold Bennett's model for The Card.

He later showed a similar skill at Pebble Mill, the Birmingham broadcasting centre which he transformed into the trailblazer for daytime television. Although no great fan of Mrs Thatcher, Sidey bundled together a series of floral displays put out to mark a prime ministerial tour of the studios, and presented them to the Iron Lady when she left. The result was a rare display of public warmth towards the BBC and a softening of her line on licence fees and cuts.

Sidey was born in Southgate, Middlesex, and joined the Daily Sketch as an editorial trainee after leaving Eltham College. He was enlisted in the Army Broadcasting Service in 1944, serving in Australia, and later worked in local newspapers and for Associated Press. Joining the BBC in 1956, he moved from the World Service to TV news, and a production job with 24 Hours, then the late night flagship of news programmes.

Following Radio Leeds' successful launch — and subsequent modifying, after the two-year experiment, into a more conventional outfit — Sidey returned to London as assistant editor of Nationwide. He was then appointed head of network production at Birmingham in 1972, the year the government de-restricted TV broadcasting hours.

Already credited by some as the inventor of British radio phone-ins — an early Radio Leeds ploy — he was given the title, which he did not always relish, of "Father of Daytime TV" by creating Pebble Mill At One. His more recent views on phone-ins, daytime television and commercial radio are not printable.

Sidey retired from Pebble Mill in 1983. He was a fellow and former chairman of the Royal Television Society, which awarded him a Baird Medal last year for services to broadcasting. He leaves his wife Daphne, a daughter and two sons, and a racy account of Radio Leeds published last year as Hello Mrs Butterfield — a tribute to a listener in Shipley who rang every day about anything.

Martin Wainwright

Allen Shaw writes: I was one of Phil's recruits for Radio Leeds during its pioneering days. Local radio had few friends, and bullets were being fired at us from within the organisation and from outside. But in Phil Sidey we had a great friend and leader and we relished the frequent skirmishes. Radio Leeds gave the public access to the microphone in a way that would have been regarded as unthinkable only a year or so earlier. He was an advocate of non-metropolitan broadcasting, keen that the station should represent ordinary people.

This most inspirational of bureaucrats was responsible for many radical ideas. He even scheduled a Radio Leeds "non-smoking" week, years before it was tackled elsewhere in the media.

His two years in Leeds were those he remembered with the greatest affection. He once told me that his turn of phrase had cost him a thousand a year in salary. I was not surprised. When he arrived to head Pebble Mill he produced a typical Sidey quip: "How fitting that a white elephant should be situated next to a zoo." But once in Birmingham, he transformed it into a thriving production centre, offering the first daily television programme from outside London — Pebble Mill At One. And his tenacity got the programme on air.

Walking was his greatest relaxation and I can imagine no way, apart from in the presence of his family, that Phil would have chosen to die other than after a good day's walk in the countryside in the company of his closest friend, ex-BBC colleague Derek Woodcock.

Phil Sidey, broadcaster, born January 11, 1926; died October 15, 1995

Gary Bond

Finer aspects of musicals



Gary Bond . . . extra edge

IT WAS perhaps appropriate that the final theatrical performance by Gary Bond, who has died aged 55, should be in the superior revised production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Aspects Of Love, which toured and then played the West End's Prince of Wales. His career in the musical theatre was inextricably linked with the composer's work.

It was also one of his finest performances. Possibly coloured by his own intimations of mortality, he brought to the role of the wordly-wise philanderer George Dillingham a mixture of distilled detachment and amused quizzical charm which infused the tender romantic number The First Man You Remember — in which the ageing Dillingham sings to, and briefly dances with, his adolescent daughter — with a subtext of rueful self-knowledge that pre-empted any suggestion of sentimentality in the song.

The higher profile and publicity-quotient of the musical theatre inevitably meant that his work in that field attracted most attention. From his very first venture into that world — the innovative, kaleidoscopic On The Level, in which Wendy Toye directed a cast packed with promising young talent — his *jeune premier* good looks and flexible tenor voice, allied to his ever-keen ear for the importance of lyrics, marked him out as a distinctive musical performer.

His promise was confirmed in his first Andrew Lloyd Webber venture in 1972, as Joseph in Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, and particularly by his superb Che Guevara in the Tim Rice/Lloyd Webber musical Evita. When he took over from David Essex, Bond worked closely with the American director Harold Prince to create a very different and distinctly ambivalent performance, both darkly brooding chorus-commentator and charismatic, passionate participant in the main action.

The glitter and the long runs of his musicals should in no way diminish the record of an impressively wide range of other theatrical work. He was an extremely adroit performer in comedy, especially in a series of Noel Coward appearances.

At the Hampstead Theatre, and subsequently the Fortune, he was buoyant with Millicent Martin as a squabbling, broken-down vaudevillian in Red Peppers, one of the three short plays in Tonight At 8.30. He ran the gamut of Coward in Sheridan Morley's Noel And Gertie, opposite Maria Aitken in several productions, including Hong Kong and New York. At the Greenwich and then the Globe Theatre in 1982 he was a superb Otto in Coward's "three-sided erotic botch-potch", Design For Living, with Aitken and Ian Ogilvy. He handled the wisecracks with characteristic deftness, but he also charged the role at crucial points — especially in the long, difficult outburst at the close of the first act — with a valuable extra layer of baffled, jealous hurt.

Like many of his best performances — including later work such as his Count, jaded with *acidie*, in the Almeida's West End version of Anouilh's The Rehearsal, or in Graham Swannell's quartet of marital plays, State Of Affairs, at the Lyric, Hammersmith and the Duchess (1983) — this was fuelled by his ability to find an unexpected extra edge to his characters, often by exploring their apparently opposite, sometimes contradictory or ambivalent qualities.

He was an essentially theatrical animal, although he also loved and respected the discipline of radio acting. Television appealed less, although with his matinee-idol looks the medium provided him with some meaty roles, including Pip in Great Expectations. Thames Television's 1968 series Frontier saw him as an idealistic young Indian Army colonel. It was ironically apposite casting for this soldier's son; Bond was born in Liss, Hampshire, with a father opposed to his son's youthful theatrical ambitions, but who died when Bond was 16, allowing him to pursue his chosen career.

He was much loved by his colleagues, not least because of his great good humour and uniquely infectious laughter. He was seemingly entirely without envy; one of the reasons why his many friendships so endured was his unfeigned delight in the success of others.

In no case was that more in evidence than in the way he relished the spotlight occasionally falling on his partner since 1979, the American artist E J Taylor, at any of the well-received exhibitions of his illustrations or models. E J Taylor was in constant and loving attendance at Ealing Hospital throughout Bond's final illness.

Alan Strachan

Gary Bond, actor, born February 7, 1940, died October 12, 1995

George Dunnet

Global ecology out of Aberdeen



George Dunnet . . . practical

IT IS indicative of ecologist George Dunnet's standing that when he died aged 67 it was in Copenhagen, while advising on the proposed fixed Oresund link between Denmark and Sweden. He was also currently advising Azerbaijan on the environmental protection of the Caspian Sea during oil exploration, and dealing with the problems of quarrying on the Isle of Skye.

Dunnet was an international authority on environmental conservation. He also had a flair for moulding together people from different backgrounds to produce solutions, never side-stepping difficulties, but never confrontational, and always ensuring everybody felt themselves a worthwhile part of the group.

His first academic post was in Australia and clearly gave him an enthusiasm for travelling which took him from the Falkland Islands to the Kola Peninsula in Murmansk, from Prince William Sound and the Exxon Valdez to New Zealand. Yet, apart from that period in Australia and a brief sojourn in Oxford, he spent his academic life in Aberdeen, starting with a first in zoology in 1949 and culminating with his appointment as Regius Professor of Natural History in 1974, from which he retired in 1992.

Dunnet was known particularly as an ornithologist, but his first paper, published while he was an undergraduate, was on the fleas of British mammals. This interest was further developed later in his career to produce outstanding work on the fleas of Australian mammals. For most of his working life, along with his other ecological studies on birds and mammals, he studied fulmars on the Orkney island of Eynhallow. This study is approaching its 50th year and is perhaps unique in the analysis of the reproductive strategies and success of a bird.

Not the least of Dunnet's contributions to his university was the establishment of Culterly Field Station. For three decades under Dunnet's care, it produced postgraduate students — many from overseas — who were ambassadors of Aberdeen University and played a leading role in ecology and conservation throughout the world.

With his wife Mom, whom he married in 1953, he provided at Culterly a community on the banks of the Ythan which left many happy memories for the staff and students who worked there. This mixing of rigorous science with the good things in life — and, most importantly, the integration of the field station and its students, from whatever part of the world, with local village life and the Aberdeenshire countryside — remains a great and enduring achievement.

Dunnet knew science has to be put to good use in the community, and for more than 30 years he assiduously applied his ecological knowledge to practical problems. His first major project was in Shetland with the establishment of the Sullom Voe oil terminal, where he provided the main thrust in devising the Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group. His fairness and ability to speak easily with oil companies, councillors, professionals, fishermen and agriculturists ensured the group's success. This flair for managing committees led him to chair the government's review team on badgers and bovine tuberculosis, the salmon advisory committee and Scottish Natural Heritage's scientific advisory committee. He was also a member of Scottish Natural Heritage's main board, but resigned from both posts, which was a great disappointment to him, because while he was fervently committed, the voice of science was not being listened to.

Dunnet loved family life and his friends. One reason why he was such a successful team leader was that he was a charming person with a wit and puckish sense of humour which endeared him to all. He was a man of many parts, who enjoyed life. His ashes were scattered on the shores and seas around his beloved Eynhallow and a valedictory dram of Highland Park was drunk. It was a fitting farewell for any Scot, but especially so for George Dunnet.

Derek Ratcliffe

George Mackenzie Dunnet, ecologist, born April 19, 1928; died September 11, 1995

Carleton Hetherington

The urban mandarin

I ONCE told Carleton Hetherington, who has died aged 79, that with a name like that he could have been either an affable member of the Cavalry Club or a dormitory township in the Cotswolds. In fact, he was a superb local government mandarin — the secretary of the Association of County Councils and its predecessor, the County Councils Association, between 1964 and 1980. And he never aided and abetted the attacks on local government by Mrs Thatcher and her more thuggish apparatchiks and sycophants during the 1980s.

Carleton was a tall, handsome man with what used to be called a distinguished presence. There was sensitivity in the face, too, a quality lacking in county council clerks. He loved laughter but showed professional restraint in the presence of Labour's more robust and raucous municipal viceroys.

His key period of power was a time of mainly Wilsonian central government, when local responsibility and voices were listened to, particularly by Harold Wilson, and indeed by Tony Crosland when he was Secretary of State for the Environment. Wilson set up an advisory committee on local finance where the respective representative bodies met the secretaries of state to put their policies and their costs before central fund allocation. The Tories retained it.

The large urban areas were under the umbrella of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, the smaller towns went with the Association of District Councils and the counties with the ACCs. It was in this interface between Whitehall, town hall and county hall that Carleton showed his negotiating and political skills. He knew what was going on in the Treasury and DoE. Often the Tory knights of the shires, coaxed by him, had more in common with us Labour urbanites than the aldermanic fringe.

Carleton was admitted as a solicitor in 1938 and, after a brief period as assistant solicitor in Peterborough and Stafford, served with distinction in the Royal Artillery between 1939 and 1946. He then returned to local government and by 1959 had become clerk of the peace and clerk of Cheshire county council. The CCA followed.

He lived to see all the Tory county councils bar one fall in the 1993 elections. He had noticed very clearly the encroaching nature of Whitehall, soon to be taken up by Thatcher in what Simon Jenkins calls "nationalisation of Britain".

Sadly, the supine nature of the permanent secretaries was mirrored in the higher ranks of local government who seemed to be subsumed or enticed by government with a dish of quangos or a tray of honours. Carleton did not cross the line. He flung himself into local authority management practice, encouraging the use of the new technologies, and quickly won the respect of a new generation of local administrators contending with centralism.

After one nasty encounter between myself and Michael Heseltine at the advisory council during Thatcher's days, he quietly said: "All they want eventually from local government is for us to award contracts for competitive tendering." As we left the DoE we were joined by the troubled Secretary of State for Education, Sir Keith Joseph, who, trying to mollify me, said something unkind about Heseltine and proffered the opinion "that it might be better if all education finances came from central Government". Carleton smiled wearily at the real purport of this proposal and offered to take myself and Sir Keith for restorative drinks. Sir Keith declined; Thatcher had summoned him yet again. We had lost the opening skirmish in the war for local authority accountability but he soldiered on on the right side. He leaves his wife, Xenia, and three sons.

Illtyd Harrington

Arthur Carleton Hetherington, public servant, born February 13, 1916; died October 15, 1995

Birthdays

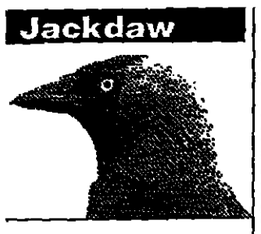
Dr Yvonne Barton, civil engineer, 39; Sir Charles Brett, chairman, Arts Council Board, Northern Ireland, 67; Sir Robert Easton, chairman, Yarrow Shipbuilders, 73; Prof Sir Christopher Foster, political economist, director, Railtrack, 65; Ruth Hussey, actress, 81; Harriett Jagger, fashion director, 36; Claude Lelouch, film director, 58; Preston Lockwood, actor, writer, 83; Louis Malle, film director, 63; Diego Maradona, former footballer, 35; Shlomo Mintz, violinist, 38; David Profumo, novelist, 40; Stanley Sadie, music critic, editor, Grove music dictionaries, 65; Grace Slick, rock singer, 56; Juliet Stevenson, actress, 39; David Triesman, general secretary, Association of University Teachers, 52; Courtney Walsh, cricketer, 33; Bob Wilson, football commentator, 54; Sir David Wilson, former director, the British Museum, 64; Henry Winkler, television actor, 50; Michael Winner, film producer, director and restaurant critic, 60.

In Memoriam

WILEY, Martyn who died 20th October 1994, a poet, a writer and a caring man who could make everyone smile. Missed by so many.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 611 9080

Jackdaw



Slippers off

IN THIS world we confront a situation unlike any in recorded history. There is no escape from the bombs of the Information War . . . It is time for new anti-strategies. To win this ridiculous battle we would have to not only appropriate every image, we would also have to buy and destroy every advertising agency, every television broadcast system, every company producing luxury goods, every church, every radio station, every newspaper, every book and magazine publisher and subvert, engulf or destroy all the world's governments. It is impossible. It may even be time to stop. The only possible means by which we can hope to affect any change is through mass exodus. To stop contributing. Not an easy task, but we are talking about the continued enslavement of humanity. We must make the attempt to unravel the fabric of illusion which media has placed around our senses. Deceit is a commodity with high sales figures and we have come to believe that various paradigms of the Industrial and Information Age are truths . . . Forget the Information War. It's time to wage a war of conscious evolution. Not brought to you by Nabisco or Warner Corp. Not owned by foreign nationals or government subsidised. And definitely not documented on hypercard or CD ROM.

Poll Peptide seeking an escape from the "tyranny of information" in Jack Raby Slippers, "A journal of cultural resource management" produced in San Francisco.

Last call

ONE OF the more unusual companies in the British register has done what it sets out to do. "Buntings and New World warblers", the ninth and last and, at fewer than 500 pages, much the shortest of its volumes of Birds of the Western Palaearctic, is out. Some wonder whether Western Palaearctic Birds Ltd might not have overdone it. Birding World, the magazine for the seriously obsessed, had already asked in 1992, when Volume VI was published, what anyone could do with the information that the Marsh Warbler — admittedly difficult to distinguish by sight alone — has been heard to go *ichre(k), tek, tic, tchick, thec, tchuk* and *tuk, chrah, chah, chaar, tschaah, kärr-kärr* and *schräää schräää, tic-trrrr, tic-tirric, tec-krrrrt, trt schräit* and *tschätsch-tschätsch, tut t-t-t-trrrrr* and *tut-ut tut t-t-t-rrr*. (And that's not counting those in the separate section on "other calls".) Who might want to know such things and why?

Geoffrey Hawthorn wrestles with the calls of nature in his diary for the London Review of Books.

Hello, hello

IN OUR television preview for issue 376 we inadvertently used a photograph of Inspector A Evans MBE — which had been intended for a programme on community policing — to illustrate our preview of The Bill. We would like to apologise for any embarrassment this may have caused.

An apology in Hello! magazine.

Stars on 33

You say your music speaks of the essential unity of the universe; I wonder how you came to this realisation, and how it speaks through the music?

Well, I didn't come to it. That is the oldest tradition of all music styles, music cultures on this planet. The beginning of every art music development, in China or in India or in European monasteries, was always to relate the art of shaping composing sounds with the art [by which] the stars are shaped and composed. Astronomy, mathematics and music were the highest disciplines throughout the centuries since the beginning of European art music in the monasteries, let's say in the 10th century until the 14th, 15th century . . . I have studied all music of Europe as a student — I had to — and I at a very early age became aware, also naturally, [that] certain music, like the Art of the Fugue of Johann Sebastian Bach or the Musikalische Opfer, [has] always known about this relationship between the laws of the universe, astronomical laws, and the laws of the music of this Earth.



Wire . . . earthy music

For example, I admire very much the music of Anton Von Webern, who is practically not known by the large public today . . . [he] was very, very aware, as a collector of very strange plants, he always went on the mountains, in the Alps, to collect the most beautiful and loneliest plants in the world, and dried them. And his music is like that: he knew that the same laws which ruled the inner life of atoms and galaxies applied to the music. To the art music. Karlheinz Stockhausen, the composer who polarised opinions about electronic music in the sixties, in an extract in Wire magazine from a Radio 3 interview.

Pox and plague

SINCE the pox or the plague
of inconstancy reigns
In most of the women o' th' town,
What ridiculous fop would trouble his brains
To make the lewd devils lie down?
No more in dull rhyme or some heavier strain
Will I of the jades or their jilting complain.
My court I will make to things more divine,
The pleasure of friendship, freedom and wine.

We'll Venus adore
For a goddess no more,
That old lady whore;
But Bacchus we'll court,
Who doth drinking support.
Let the world sink or swim,
Sirrah, fill to the brim!

Taken from Choice Ayres and Songs . . . The Second Book, published by John Playford in 1679 and unearthed by John Wardroper for his new collection Lovers, Rakes and Rogues, publlished by Shelfmark Books.

Bright sparks

ACOUSTINT — accoustic intelligence.
COMINT — communications intelligence.
COMSEC — communications security.
ELINT — electronic intelligence.
FISINT — foreign instrumentation signals intelligence.
HUMINT — human intelligence.
INFOSEC — information security.
LASINT — laser intelligence.
MASINT — measurement and signature intelligence.
OSCINT — open sources intelligence.
RADINT — radar intelligence.
SIGINT — signals intelligence.
SIGSEC — signals security.
TAREX — target exploitation.
TELINT — telemetry intelligence.

Abbreviations and acronyms used in Intelligence services and posted on the Internet's IntelWeb site.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian-.co.uk.; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister

er aspects
nusicals





Middling fair policy means sacrifices



Larry Elliott

UNTIL the next election, politics in Britain will be dominated by Middle England. Nobody is quite sure what Middle England is, or even where it is, but everybody knows Mr Major is doing badly because he has lost the support of Middle Englanders and Mr Blair is doing well because he is the sort of decent, honest, moral politician Middle England likes.

As such, the past couple of weeks have seen the Government unveil (or have leaked) its comeback plans. Michael Howard's crackdown on crime and tougher rules on refugees, Kenneth Clarke's hints of tax cuts, Peter Lilley's reductions in housing benefit, are all presumably designed to create the sort of Britain in which Middle England again feels safe, wanted and loved.

The hidden subtext of this is that Middle England has suffered innumerable body blows over the past 16 years, that its quiet voice is rarely heard above the clamour of welfare scroungers and that enough is enough.

Part of this analysis is undoubtedly true. The welfare state is indeed creaking under the strain, but the real benefits junkies are the well-heeled and the affluent, not the dispossessed and the poor.

Despite all the whingeing, Middle England has done pretty well out of 16 years of Conservative rule. According to the Government's figures, incomes after housing costs fell for the bottom 10 per cent of households, were flat for the second-lowest decile, but rose for the other 80 per cent, with the top 10 per cent, naturally, doing best of all.

Last Friday's report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development found that income inequality grew more rapidly in Britain during the 1980s than in any other western country, and continued to widen in the 1990s.

The 400-page report of the Commission for Social Justice was crammed with facts and figures which highlighted the gulf in Britain between rich and poor — in health, life expectancy, income, education, employment priorities. What's more, the gulf is likely to get worse unless something is done.

Patrick Minford, the free-market economist, argued at a recent discussion organised by the Centre for Economic Policy Research that free trade and the global division of labour would bring economic benefits to countries in both North and South, but added that unskilled labour in the North would lose out to cheaper competition from developing countries.

In the circumstances, then, one might assume that the priority should be to help those at the bottom of the pile. To a large degree, this was the thrust of policy for most of the so-called Golden Age. Cheap money, full employment, a redistributive tax system, a rising social wage and strong trade unions all helped to improve the lot of what was known as the working class.

By the 1970s, the middle classes felt under threat, their living standards squeezed by incomes policies and inflation, their cultural values challenged by punk rockers and stroppy shop stewards, and their country seemingly disappearing under a wave of dropped aitches and proletarianism.

All of which helps explain why Middle England turned to Mrs Thatcher in 1979 and stayed with the Conservatives for the next four elections. Even so, throughout the Golden Age, Middle England was getting its fair share of the state's largesse — through subsidies to the arts, child allowance, mortgage interest tax relief and higher education. And it has clung on to them tenaciously over the past 16 years.

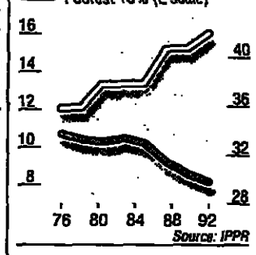
The one reverse has been the Treasury's cut in the value of mortgage interest relief to 15 per cent, but look at the fuss that has caused. Whereas unemployment for the unskilled is seen as merely the result of global market forces about which we can do nothing, the torpor in the housing market is not only the Government's fault, but also something it should take steps to rectify.

Even greater hypocrisy is reserved for child benefit. The justification for those in the 40 per cent tax band receiving this benefit is that it helps cement the middle classes to the concept of the welfare state and creates a sense of social solidarity with the working classes. Does the man on £70,000 a year really think he is standing shoulder to shoulder with the woman who comes to do his cleaning, or does he think that the £500-a-year handout he gets from the state for his two kids will pay for the Volvo to be serviced or for half a term's prep school fees?

However, it is education that provides the most powerful example of the way policy is determined by the need to pander to Middle England. One fashionable view on the left is that bringing back selection to the state system is the only way to ensure the continuing support of those members of the left-leaning urban haute bourgeoisie who might otherwise send their children to private schools.

The rich get richer

Percentage of disposable income.



This needs to be seen for what it is, a mixture of special pleading and moral blackmail.

The problems in the British educational system picked out by the recent World Competitiveness Report were not at the top — where the elite is still the match of any in the world — but further down the scale, in general levels of literacy, numeracy and motivation. Children of the well-heeled do better out of the state system than the less well-off; their parents are motivated, are prepared to move to parts of the country where the schools are good (assuming they don't live there anyway), can afford to stump up for better facilities and push their offspring hard.

Far from being shortchanged by the state education system, the middle classes do very nicely out of it, particularly in higher education where grants and tuition fees are worth 10 times as much for the richest 20 per cent of families as they are to the poorest 20 per cent.

Tony Blair has shown a recognition that policies should be designed to improve the lives of ordinary people rather than be a distillation of what the UHBs think ordinary people should want. He has stressed that working-class people suffer most from poor schools and that, while the middle classes may fear crime, it is the tenants on the inner-city estates who suffer from it.

But knowing there is a problem is quite different from doing something about it, because it requires sacrifices from those who have done pretty well out of the past 16 years.

Yet the choice is clear. There is the American route, where an increasingly coercive state will be forced to adopt a "contain and control" approach to keeping the poor in check. At one level this will involve homilies about how the poor should give up smoking, eat more greens and keep to 21 units of alcohol a week. At another it will mean closed-circuit TV across the country, hanging more people up in prison and cutting unemployment pay in order to force people to price themselves into jobs (take pay cuts).

The alternative is to introduce policies that might do some good. It means an acceptance that monetary policy should be designed to facilitate growth rather than defend the interests of the monied class, that fiscal policy should redistribute money from the wealthy to the less wealthy, and that the battle between labour and capital should be evened up by giving power back to trade unions.

The chances of this happening are negligible. It is not merely that this means questioning the basis of the neo-classical revolution of the past 20 years, which has accepted — even promoted — the idea that greater inequality both within and between countries is inevitable. It is that those who often whine longest and loudest about the iniquities of the Tories are not prepared to sacrifice their second homes, their tax cuts or their holidays in the sun to do anything about them.

Oui is romantic but what price the mourning after?

Briefing

Sarah Ryle

SHORT of sending in the troops there seems to be little more the Canadian government can do to persuade its rebellious citizens of Quebec to vote for national unity in today's referendum.

Ministers have pleaded and cajoled, warning that economic union post-separation is a non-starter, but pollsters last week declared the independence vote "too close to call". One thing is for sure, though. Markets hate uncertainty. This is why the Canadian stock index took the biggest dive in six years last Monday.

What is remarkable is that the storm took so long to break, given the referendum has been in the offing for months. "A month ago, few people would have given it much consideration," says David Coleman, an economist at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. "The No campaign was very low key and the financial markets have been caught by surprise now, because it did not look as though there was anything to worry about."

After all, the separatists lost the same argument at the polls in 1980. But Lucien Bouchard's arrival at the head of the Yes campaign three weeks ago has raised the emotional temperature. Mr Coleman says the economic case against independence appears to have been sidelined.

Quebec might feel that it could go it alone because of its economic significance within Canada as a whole. A quarter of the population of 27.9 million lives in Quebec. It is the second biggest region in GDP terms, at C$116,350 million (£50.586 million) in 1993, according to the OECD. That is more than 20 per cent of the total C$515,293 GDP for the 10 provinces.

Most of Quebec's significant economic activity is in the fundamental areas of manufacturing and service industries. Only Ontario is economically stronger.

On the face of it, Quebecers could be forgiven for believing they have the resources to break away from Canada and keep functioning successfully. Perceptions of the economic status quo may also be adversely hit by the tax regime. As things stand now, the people of Quebec have higher personal tax rates than those of almost all other provinces, according to Coopers & Lybrand's Toronto tax experts.

THIS is offset to some extent by the relatively low corporate tax rates, which Dean Levitt of Coopers says are the lowest in Canada because Quebec wants to attract industry and other businesses.

If the province splits from Canada, though, many businesses would be certain to run for the border and Ontario. They would not want to wait around to find out whether Quebec would be accepted into the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) or whether the financial markets would view the new independent nation favourably. The markets would be worried about monetary stability, partly because Quebec might create its own currency as it would no longer have any influence over policy regarding the Canadian dollar.

It is certain Quebec would not be able to borrow money more cheaply than it can at present, so the prospect of paying even higher interest rates than it does already would propel even more commerce out of the region.

Debt is the real problem which an independent Quebec would face. It has the highest ratio of deficit to GDP, at 3.4, of all the provinces (Ontario's is at 2.7). According to Mr Coleman, Quebec also already suffers from one of the lowest credit ratings in Canada. He says: "The interest they would have to pay on existing debt would shoot up".

That could translate into yet higher taxes and even job losses as a new Quebec administration attempted to deal with costlier repayments and additional debt. The Canadian government would probably lose little time in shifting a proportion of the national public debt, at roughly C$243 billion, onto the breakaway state. If it was done according to population, that could be between C$60 and C$70 billion. Then there would be an end to grants for public works — another cost to the Quebecers, who will enjoy an estimated 27.4 per cent of total provincial expenditure in Canada this year, according to figures published by the OECD.

The problem for the Canadian government is that slogans like "Maitres chez nous" — masters in our own house — inevitably grab the public imagination in a way that GDP/debt ratios cannot.

Smashing system with free gifts

Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

THE arrival of the Rothmans gift catalogue is keenly awaited at this end, and that's a fact. Collecting fag coupons is a bit like accumulating an exotic currency of uncertain value; only when the catalogue turns up can the exchange rate be calculated.

Could we not restructure the economy along "catalogue" lines? Within a few years luxury goods could be taken out of the price mechanism altogether. This would help the poorer purchasers of coupon-carrying goods to enjoy the fine things in life while stimulating demand by requiring the wealthy to buy basics should they wish to retain access to luxuries.

This all sounds a little dirigiste. But then the whole "gift" culture looks intriguingly like an attempt to reintroduce eastern-bloc economics through the back door.

One of our major supermarket chains has launched a "points" scheme and published a table listing the gifts on offer. In this wonderful non-market world, £100-worth of shopping equals a £1 discount on a creme bath equals a child's meal in the supermarket shop. A £1,000-worth equals 70cl of whisky equals dry-cleaning for a pair of curtains equals a car-ferry ride to Northern Ireland.

This is all reminiscent of Comecon, the Communist common market. Huge "baskets" of goods were traded between member-states; Polish cement was useless but still traded.

So, you want to fight the free-market? Collect points, Green Shield stamps, cigarette coupons. Subvert the price system! Get that trip to France. Or 10 creme baths.

Indicators

TODAY — UK: Provisional MO (Oct).
US: Personal income (Sep).
US: Personal consumption (Sep).

TOMORROW — FR: Unemployment rate (Sep).
FR: Nos. unemployed (Sep).
US: Consumer confidence (Oct).
US: Chicago PMI (Oct).

WEDNESDAY — UK: Chancellor/BoE governor meeting.
UK: Whole world trade (Aug).
US: Leading indicators (Sep).
US: NAPM (Oct).
US: Fed beige book.

THURSDAY — GER: Bundesbank council meeting.
UK: Official reserves (Oct).

FRIDAY — US: Non farm payrolls (Oct).
US: Unemployment rate.

Source: HSBC Markets Research.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 2.03	France 7.47	Italy 2,470	Singapore 2.18
Austria 14.90	Germany 2.13	Malta 0.54	South Africa 5.57
Belgium 43.75	Greece 357.00	Netherlands 2.39	Spain 186.00
Canada 2.11	Hong Kong 12.02	New Zealand 2.34	Sweden 10.30
Cyprus 0.69	India N/A	Norway 9.51	Switzerland 1.72
Denmark 8.32	Ireland 0.946	Portugal 227.00	Turkey 78,585
Finland 6.60	Israel N/A	Saudi Arabia 5.90	US 1.545

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Self Assessment

Isn't it time you got up to date?

Is it ages and ages since you dealt with your tax? Then you must bring your affairs up to date before the new tax system called Self Assessment takes effect.

It will apply to everyone who receives a tax return including the self-employed, people running a business from home, higher rate tax payers, company directors and some pensioners.

The first Self Assessment tax return will be sent out in April 1997 for the tax year 1996/97.

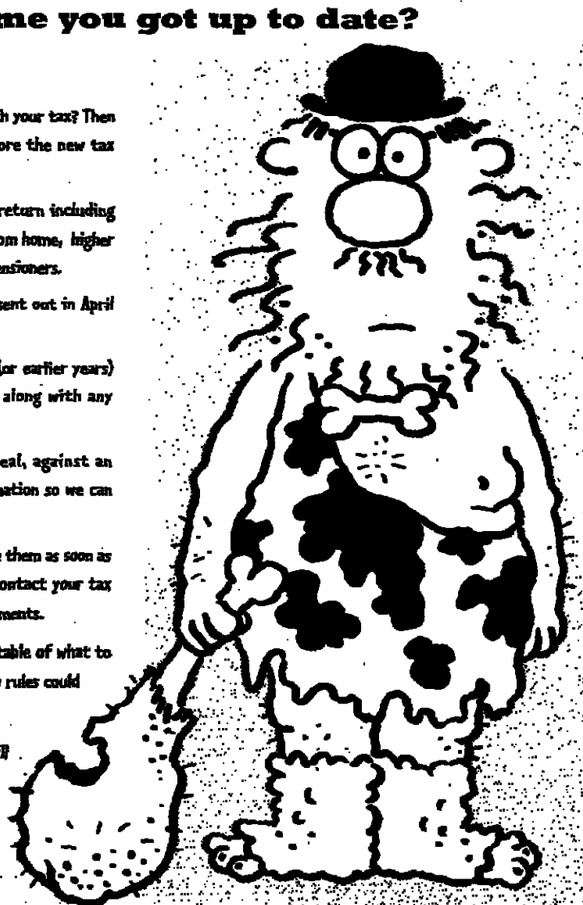
If you still have any tax returns for 1994/95 (or earlier years) to complete, get them back to us quickly along with any outstanding accounts.

If you have appealed, or are about to appeal, against an estimated tax assessment, send us the information so we can agree the right figures.

And if you have any unpaid tax bills, please settle them as soon as possible. If you can't pay all that you owe, contact your tax office. It may be possible for you to pay by instalments.

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To help you understand how Self Assessment will affect you, we've prepared a helpful booklet. To receive your copy just fill in the coupon or telephone our special number, anytime. (All calls are charged at the local rate.)



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Inland Revenue

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Touchdown to triumph . . . Brasher stretches for the second try which put Australia out of England's reach at Wembley and retained for them the World Cup they have held continuously since 1975

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Centenary World Cup final: England 8, Australia 16

Australia hold the cup and the cards to the future

Frank Keating hails the tournament as vindication of Maurice Lindsay's faith and condemns the BBC for not sharing it

Paul Fitzpatrick at Wembley

WHERE do England go from here, Phil Larder was asked after his side had experienced the deep disappointment of losing 16-8 to Australia in the 11th World Cup final at Wembley on Saturday.

The question was wrongly pitched. The concern is where the game is going. Saturday brought to an end a World Cup more successful than even the most optimistic critic had predicted. But, because of the internecine strife in Australia, the sport is not necessarily in a position to exploit the gains to the full.

Bobby Fulton, Australia's coach, has not attempted to score political points during the past three weeks. On Saturday night he was in a position to do so. His side had been labelled second-class because of the omission of players signed up with Rupert Murdoch's breakaway Super League. The only effective way to answer that was to win the cup.

They did so deservedly, not without moments of good fortune but in keeping with the standards of quality with which they have become synonymous since 1978. Fulton could afford to be bullish. "The ARL will not lose the court case and there will be no Super League next year," he said defiantly.

It was possibly the first time during the tournament that he had alluded to the battle for control of the sport in Australia — a battle currently being fought in court, between the Kerry Packer backed ARL and Murdoch's News Corporation.

Fulton's reference to the Super League dispute was a reminder that, until the issue is settled, the future of football between England and Australia is shrouded in doubt and expansion and development can be put on hold.

What this World Cup has demonstrated is that international football is the way forward for rugby league. If this tournament has not removed the scales from parochial eyes then nothing will.

The battle on the pitch did not end as England had, with justification, hoped. The World Cup has been in Australia's possession since 1975 and they are determined to keep it, like the Ashes, in perpetuity. Its destination looked clear from the sixth minute when a blunder that may haunt Phil Clarke for the rest of his days led to the first of Australia's two tries, scored by Wishart.

England never seemed to get that error out of their system even though a forceful touchdown from the dangerous Paul Newlove four minutes after half-time improved their prospects at 8-10.

Two of the game's controversial incidents went in Australia's favour, first when Martin Offiah's most dangerous run of the tournament appeared to have brought a try for Newlove. But the winger was adjudged, possibly wrongly, to have put a foot in touch before releasing the ball.

In the second half Tony Smith might have been the victim of a trip, a sending-off offence, by Brad Fittler when the Castleford stand-off looked in the clear. A score in either instance would have put England ahead.

Larder, though, put things in perspective. "A team that makes as many mistakes as ours and gives away as many penalties as we did in a World Cup final is committing suicide," said the England coach.

It was not only the mistakes and the penalties. England showed limited imagination in trying to break down a superb Australian defence. The route to victory could be through the pack, Larder had predicted, but the pack were disappointing. Betts, Clarke and Farrell chose a bad day to have their least effective games of the tournament, and little creativity stemmed from Bobby Goulding. It was all a little too tight and unadventurous.

Tim Brasher got the decisive try 12 minutes from time and Andrew Johns landed his fourth goal. This gifted Newcastle Knights scrum-half, who has proved a fine makeshift hooker, took the Man of the Match award and deserved it. There was nothing second-class about him or any of his colleagues.

ENGLAND: Radlinski (Wigan); Robinson (Wigan), Connolly (Wigan), Newlove (Bradford Bulls), Offiah (Wigan); A Smith (Castleford), Goulding (St Helens); Harrison (Halifax; Cassidy, Wigan, 31min; Joynt, St Helens, 70), Jackson (Sheffield Eagles), Platt (Auckland Warriors; Harrison, 62; Platt, 71), Betts (Auckland Warriors, capt), Clarke (Sydney City Roosters), Farrell (Wigan).

AUSTRALIA: Brasher (Sydney Tigers); Dallas (Sydney Bulldogs), Coyne (St George), Hill (Manly), Wishart (Illawarra); Fittler (Penrith Panthers, capt), Toovey (Manly); Ray (Sydney Bulldogs; J Smith, Sydney Bulldogs, 75), A Johns (Newcastle Knights), Carroll (Manly), Menzies (Manly), Larson (North Sydney), Dymock (Sydney Bulldogs).

Referee S Cummings (England).

Frank Keating writes: A GRINDING intensity of endeavour, skill and collective nobility pervaded Wembley on Saturday. It was by no means a spectacular cup final but it was spectacularly hard fought. Australia's defence was gruesomely tight; England's frayed for split seconds, they were punished accordingly and at the end acknowledged it with manly and sporting grace.

Australia's tries came from close-quarter daggerthrusts and a cruel eye for the main chance. For England, Newlove's score was thrilling for its coalition of sheer muscle and willpower, and Offiah's breathtaking touchline dash will stay warm in the mind long after the winter has closed in.

So will the second-half streaker, a voluptuously built blonde who, with elegant grace, turned carefree cartwheels until the jobsworths closed in to robe her. By which time the prim BBC producer considered it safe to transmit a close-up of her — at just the moment the stewards' covering slipped to stir the long ago remembrance at rugby's other place when Erica Roe's command performance had Steve Smith observing to his amiably ursine captain Beaumont: "Hey, Bill, there's a woman run on with your bottom stuck on her chest."

The incident rounded off an uncomfortable month for the BBC. Compared with the £10 million ITV paid for rugby union's World Cup a few months ago, the BBC paid less than £500,000 for this and then scheduled it dismally, as if embarrassed by it. Rugby league has good reason this time to consider it has been treated with the shoddy patrician dismissal by the southern establishment which it has been banging on about for a century.

The corporation's palpable dog-in-manger attitude deprived its audience of some outstanding rugby and it surely knows it. When it bleats again about the satellite stations collaring the important sports events, its blatant ineptitude at this World Cup will be harshly recalled. The emerging nations' competition would also have made, by all accounts, some rivetting and competitive television, with none of the walkovers of rugby union's World Cup which ITV rightly covered.

The BBC's Radio 5 has played another resplendent tournament here, though its snootier cousins of Saturday morning's Sport on 4 showed insulting judgment in carrying no item on the final. This was the World Cup final of a grand team game.

On Saturday, as the cup was presented, rugby league's chief executive and shrewd enthusiast Maurice Lindsay allowed himself a smile of self-congratulation. BBC TV's patronising blind spot apart, Lindsay had led his troops to a triumph against the odds as the game remains in political turmoil.

The winners on Saturday, of course, knew they were by no means Australia's strongest XIII, and the doubters had sneered at Lindsay for staging the opening match three Saturdays ago at Wembley, fearing that a weedy crowd would begin the carnival on the back foot. But 40,000-plus was more than double the crowd for England's soccer match against Colombia a fortnight previously there; and Saturday's 66,000 totally vindicated Lindsay's ambition.

After rugby league's first expedition to Wembley for its Challenge Cup final in 1929, which mustered 40,000 for Wigan v Dewsbury, the Manchester Guardian's London correspondent noted: "It made the average Southern rugby club game look rather weak and watery . . . As well as the possibilities of intense training, hard running and the closest possible marking, the most astonishing revelations which the game gave to Southerners were the terrific speeds at which the game was fought out."

In that respect nothing in the two rugbys has changed.

RUGBY UNION

Tour match: Cardiff 22, Fijians 21

Fijians given the push

Robert Armstrong

CARDIFF pointed the way for Wales to beat Fiji a week next Saturday with a controlled, streetwise performance at the Arms Park that satisfied their supporters without doing anything to advance the cause of expansive rugby. The Welsh champions' stop-start approach and the Fijians' efforts to maintain continuity vividly illustrated the contrast in mental outlook between the northern and southern hemispheres.

After a positive start in the international against Wales A nine days ago, Fiji have suffered narrow defeats by Neath and Cardiff owing mainly to the technical shortcomings of their forwards.

Brad Johnstone, the former All Black who helps to coach the Fijians, admitted that his team's inability to counter Cardiff's destructive skills had been deeply frustrating.

For all their competitive edge, the Fijians were usually one decent pass short of a genuine scoring opportunity. Perhaps they were rattled by an early outbreak of mayhem that saw the Fijians Smith and Veitayaki brawling with Jones and Mustoe in front of the main stand. More disturbing was the amount of lineout ball Cardiff gained by illegally lifting the 6ft 10in Jones.

The Fijians' naivety in the scrums was also costly. Even though they had a front row weighing a combined 60 stone, their pack was often nudged backwards by a Cardiff eight that timed its shove to perfection and forced a pushover try in the second half.

Cardiff owed much to their quick-witted scrum-half Moore, who serviced his forwards superbly, enabling Lewis and Humphreys to unleash their driving power in midfield. Davies kicked accurately throughout and the full-back Rayer made a nonsense comeback after his long absence through injury.

Sadly the Fijians lost one of their main strike runners, the full-back Rayasi, to a first-half injury but before his departure he made a devastating run through the middle which enabled the flanker Korovou to score an early try at the posts.

However, four successive penalty goals by Davies underlined Cardiff's growing stranglehold on the game which the Fijian fly-half Turuva did nothing to relieve by missing two first-half penalties in front of the posts. Midway through the second half Turuva at last found his line and length, landing three long-range penalties that put the Fijians back in the lead 16-12.

Then came Cardiff's coup de grace, a rolling maul which began wide on the right and finished with Moore grounding the ball to the right of the posts. Davies added a 35-metre penalty to his conversion and, though the replacement Bogisa responded with a late try, the conversion attempt was a bridge too far for Turuva. Cardiff had just about made their point.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Try: Moore **Conversions:** Davies. **Penalties:** Davies 5. **Fiji: Tries:** Korovou, Bogisa. **Conversion:** Turuva. **Penalties:** Turuva 3.

Cardiff: M Rayer; S Hill, C Johns, M Rees, S Ford, A Davies (capt), A Moore; A Lewis, J Humphreys, L Mustoe, J Waterman, D Jones, V Davies. E Lewis O Williams.

Fijians: F Rayasi (R Bogisa, 38min), P Bale, S Sorowaki, L Little, M Bari; O Turuva, J Rauluni; J Veitayaki (capt), G Smith, V Cavubati, E Katalau, I Tawake, T Tamanivalu, D Rouse, M Korovou

Referee E Murray (Scotland).

Courage League One: Leicester 43, Bristol 6

Expansive champions put skids under Bristol

Ian Malin

TWICKENHAM and its leading clubs may not be able to agree about entry into European competition, but what is beyond argument is that Leicester and Bath are already in a league of their own.

Saturday's demolition of Bristol and a ritual half-century by Bath against Saracens illustrate the gulf between the top and the also-rans in League One.

Bristol's young pack were expected to help challenge the Leicester-Bath duopoly this season. Some hope. After two months they have also been heavily defeated at Wasps and Bath, and as their coach Brian Hanlon admitted: "The commitment and the heart is there but we're just not competing against the big boys."

The visitors could not live with the champions' ability to win quick ball and use it, and although John Liley's 28 points — including a national league record of eight penalties from eight kicks — put a gloss on the score, Bristol were outplayed in every phase. Even in the line-out their two lighthouses Archer and Shaw were kept in the shadows by the peerless Johnson.

Apart from Liley the Tigers' key man was Neil Back at open-side flanker. He was everywhere, providing the link between forwards and backs that every side — England take note — needs to play an expansive game.

Leicester's three tries were breathtaking, excellent and out of this world. The first, after 23 minutes, began with Rory Underwood on his own 10-yard line and ended with his touchdown in the corner; the second just past the hour was a team effort finished off by Cockerill; the coup de grace three minutes later is unlikely to be bettered this season.

Leicester, winning a ruck behind their own posts, moved the ball through 10 pairs of hands, with Underwood making two vital incursions, and Hackney ran the ball in from 40 yards out.

Johnson, who also played a vital role in that move, said: "That's the sort of thing we've been striving for. We probably made a mistake in saying we were going to play a 15-man game, and have been criticised for not always doing so this season, but today things came off."

Bristol will present video evidence at a disciplinary hearing next month to protest the yellow card that threatens the prop Alan Sharp's chances of playing for Scotland against Western Samoa on November 18. But the visitors will not want to look too closely at replays of this game.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Underwood, Cockerill, Hackney. **Conversions:** Liley 2. **Penalties:** Liley 6. **Bristol: Penalties:** Hull 2.

Leicester: J Liley; S Hackney, S Potter, R Robinson, R Underwood; N Malone, A Kardooni (D Grewcock, 78min); G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth (D Jelley, 76), M Johnson, M Poole, J Wells, D Richards (capt), N Back.

Bristol: P Hull (capt); K Maggs, J Keyte, M Denney, N Marval; A Thomas, B Harvey; A Sharp, M Regan, D Hinkins, S Shaw, G Archer, B Armstrong, M Corry, I Pallen.

Referee S Piercy (Yorkshire).

Bath 52, Saracens 16

Robinson helps send Saracens back to the drawing-board

Chris Hewett

IT WAS not so much a cruel encounter as an exercise in undiluted sadism. Poor Saracens produced their best form of the season to deny Bath ball and territory for long spells, only to find themselves on the wrong end of a comprehensive thrashing.

The title favourites are conducting a remarkable experiment in total rugby and undermining many of the most fundamental tenets of the game in the process. Mark Evans, Saracens' coach, was still scratching his head long after the final whistle.

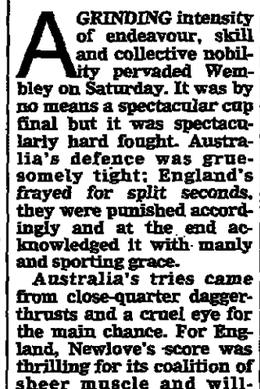
"Like every other side, we came here with a plan to win the game and I can honestly say that we achieved many of the things we set out to," he said. "It's just that when Bath are playing like this it doesn't seem to mean much."

The bald statistics tell the tale: Bath enjoyed considerably less than 50 per cent possession and fared substantially worse in terms of field position, yet they scored eight tries, most of them from distance.

If Jack Rowell is to be believed, England want a piece of the same action. Now that Andy Robinson has been called into the squad for next month's Test with South Africa — the flanker got the nod on Friday evening — Rowell may finally have rediscovered the courage of his convictions.

"Andy is at the very heart of the style we are developing here, a style that allows us to attack from anywhere on the pitch," said Bath's coach Brian Ashton. "He is every bit as important offensively as Guscott or de Glanville and he is the only openside in the country with the vision to play the sort of game England are talking about."

The Londoners were 21-6 adrift at half-time — Andy Lee's lamentable goalkicking had not helped their cause — and although Peter Harries reduced the deficit a minute after the restart Bath were well past 30 points at the hour mark. Guscott in particular cut a dash with his 100th club try and there was a blinder from the scrum-half Ian Sanders to tie things up on the stroke of time.



Robinson . . . invaluable

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Geoghegan 2, Sanders 2, de Glanville, Guscott, Lumsden, penalty try. **Conversions:** Callard 6. **Saracens: Tries:** Harries, Tanningley. **Penalties:** Lee 2.

Bath: J Callard; A Lumsden, P de Glanville (capt), J Guscott, S Geoghegan; R Butland, I Sanders; K Yates, G Dawe, V Ubogu, M Haag, N Redman, E Peters, B Clarke, A Robinson.

Saracens: A Tuhningley; M Gregory, J Buckton, S Ravenscroft, P Harries; A Lee, B Davies (capt); G Holmes, C Olney, S Wilson, M Langley, C Yandell, J Green, A Diprose (M Zeltzman, 51min), R Hill.

Referee S Langer (Liverpool).

Gloucester 13, Harlequins 24

Gloucester outnumbered

Jeremy Alexander

GLOUCESTER apologised in advance for their scoreboards, still not in full operational mode. After four minutes they should have apologised for the score — or, more particularly, their team, which was not operating at all. Harlequins led 10-0 through two tries, mercifully unconverted. From the next kick-off Quins fell narrowly short of a third try. The fat lady was playing for Gloucester.

It took Quins more than an hour to recover from the simplicity of it. It took Gloucester 10 minutes. Challinor failed with a third kick, O'Leary knocked on a Gloucester touch-misser and Ian Smith, Greening and finally Fenley punched a hole in Quins' central defence: 10-7 when it should have been 17-0. By the half-hour it was level and soon after the interval Tim Smith's second penalty put Gloucester ahead.

It remained 13-10 for 25 minutes as Challinor took his misses to five and Wright, a replacement for Bromley, made it six with the worst of all. Quins were getting edgy — Staples arguing the touch with the official, Watson wagging a finger at Sheasby. Then Quins managed a reprise with tries from the kicking culprits and Staples made a point with the conversions.

It should never have come to this but Quins neglected to get the ball quickly wide, where their greatest advantage lay. Too often they turned in on themselves where Gloucester's defences had regrouped to match the thrusts of Jenkins, Sheasby and Kitchin. Carling's missmove to Staples, repeatedly effective, brought the second breach. As Gloucester's team secretary John Fidler said, "Their class came through."

It did not come through in the front row, where Leonard played an inconspicuous first game of the season and Moore reappeared on the ground where, six months earlier, he saved Quins from relegation in what was to have been his last game in England. Then he signed autographs for 25 minutes. Now he was first down the tunnel, outshone by Greening, who had signed off his debut in that April match with a heel against the head.

Gloucester's pack held their own but there is little penetration outside; once they had possession for 10 unproductive minutes. They also have a whole XV injured. Fidler says they need a couple of class backs and "hope to survive above Saracens [where they play on Saturday] and West Hartlepool". This is not Kingsholm talk. Next those scoreboards will be telling the score in League Two.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Try: Fenley. **Conversions:** T Smith. **Penalties:** T Smith 2. **Harlequins: Tries:** Staples, Bromley, Wright. **Challinor. Conversions:** Staples 2.

Gloucester: M Roberts; T Smith, D Caskie, P Holford, M Nicholson, M Kimber, B Fenley; T Windo, P Greening, A Martin, D Sims (capt), G Devereux, R Fidler, I Smith, C Raymond.

Harlequins: J Staples; D O'Leary, W Carling, W Greenwood, S Bromley (C Wright, 54min); P Challinor, R Kitchin; J Leonard (capt), B Moore, A Mullins, A Snow, M Russell, M Watson, R Jenkins, C Sheasby.

Referee J Pearson (Durham)

Basketball

Jets halt the free fall

Robert Pryce

THE Chester Jets had been drinking in the Last Chance Saloon without the means to cover the bill, but they may yet escape being chucked out.

After four years in the Budweiser League and four re-elections, their owner-coach Mike Burton was told that his club would have to finish out of the bottom three this season to avoid relegation to the National League. This gloomy outlook was further clouded when the Jets lost their two big England internationals, the 7ft 3in Alan Bannister and the 6ft 9in Dave Gardner, to richer teams.

Chester have struggled again this season, though last week brought them some relief. On Wednesday they qualified for the 7-Up Trophy quarter-finals for the first time, then on Saturday they lifted themselves off the bottom of the league with a 93–92 win at Hemel Hempstead.

The Jets fell 12–0 behind at the start and were still trailing going into the last two minutes, but Burton has recruited several experienced players this season and they may prove invaluable in close games. Wayman Boone, who has been scoring almost as prolifically for Chester as he did in the National League for Plymouth, led the way on Saturday with 35 points.

Chester's place in today's 7-Up draw remains safe, though they lost 93–85 at home to the Newcastle Comets yesterday. Boone's 20 points were backed by 18 each from two more of Burton's experienced recruits, the former Oldham point guard Robbie Peers and the one-time England centre-forward Pete Mullins. Bannister, in Chester with his new team, sat out the game with a back injury.

Manchester briefly took over as sole Bud League leaders on Saturday when they beat Thames Valley 93–90. Gardner, recruited a week ago, scored the final basket of the game, then threw an errant pass that gave the Tigers five seconds' possession and a chance to level the scores.

Manchester have won all six games since signing John Tresvant, a sequence that began with a 72–59 win at Birmingham five weeks ago.



Winning team . . . Benetton's manager Flavio Briatore greets Herbert (left) and Schumacher after they sealed the constructors' title NAOKAZU OINUMA

Williams spin to another fiasco

Alan Henry at Suzuka

DAMON HILL's hopes of a late-season renaissance once again collapsed in chaos when he and his Williams-Renault team-mate David Coulthard both spun out of the Japanese Grand Prix here yesterday as Michael Schumacher equalled Nigel Mansell's record of nine wins in a season.

Hill's nightmare began when he slid off the track in a light rain-shower while second behind Schumacher on lap 37 of the 53-lap race and came into the pits for a replacement nose section to be fitted. While doing so he exceeded the pit-lane speed limit and immediately had a 10sec stop-go penalty imposed.

He was heading back to the pits when he spun into a gravel trap and was out of the race. "I'm sure there was oil on the track," he said later.

A lap earlier, Coulthard had survived an excursion across a sand trap and regained the circuit only to spin off for good two corners later.

To add insult to injury the stewards fined Hill $10,000 (£6,400) for the speeding infringement. Despite all, he remained surprisingly cheerful and sanguine after the race. "Just when you think it couldn't get any worse, it does," he said. "There is no easy way out of this, you just have to keep pressing up. The easiest thing to do is to give up, and it would probably be less painful that way, but that's not an option.

"We will go to Australia with high hopes and looking forward. It's just been one thing after another; not a glorious end to the season. But I must keep pressing on trying to improve myself."

With Johnny Herbert backing up Schumacher by coming home third, the Benetton team clinched the prestigious constructors' championship for the first time, ending Williams's domination of this contest since 1992.

Hill's disastrous race has clearly heightened the Williams team's thinly disguised nervousness over his new £5 million contract for 1996 which was signed two months ago when it looked as if he might challenge Schumacher for this year's title.

Despite a public statement of support from Frank Williams last week, the mood in the team garage after yesterday's race was one of shell-shocked disbelief. The team owner resolutely declined to offer any public censure of Hill's performance but was obviously bitterly disappointed with the way the race unfolded.

Jean Alesi mounted the only serious challenge to Schumacher with a terrific performance in his Ferrari. Both the effervescent Frenchman and his team-mate Gerhard Berger incurred 10sec stop-go penalties for jumping the start. Yet a tactically brilliant switch to slicks as the wet track began to dry out saw Alesi storming back on to Schumacher's tail only 12 laps into the race, despite being pitched into a 360-degree spin when Pedro Lamy edged him on to the grass when the Minardi was being lapped by the Ferrari.

Alesi stayed within a couple of seconds of the leading Benetton until he retired after 24 laps with a failed driveshaft joint. That promoted Hill into second place and the Williams driver briefly went into the lead when Schumacher made his second scheduled refuelling stop on lap 31.

Hill dropped back to second after making his own second stop on lap 36, after which his race so dramatically unravelled.

Mika Hakkinen came home a strong second to produce the McLaren-Mercedes team's most convincing result of the season. Behind Herbert, Eddie Irvine's Jordan-Peugeot survived two collisions to take fourth place.

Schumacher is now aiming to beat Mansell's record with a 10th victory at the final race in Adelaide on November 12. Hill and Williams will simply be out to reassure each other that they can pick up the pieces and mount a serious world championship challenge next season.

Racing

Cigar stubs out Halling in record run

Graham Rock on the horse that took New York by storm

HE WALKED into the ring like an old pro, ready for action, he was detained in the paddock while officials checked the legality of his racing plates. He started from stall 10 of 11, on the outside of the bend, on a seemingly unfavourable wet track, and ranged against him was a top class field.

Cigar despatched them without flash, without fuss, a relentless gallop in record time at Belmont Park on Saturday to establish a twelfth consecutive victory to confirm him the undisputed champion of the world.

Prospects of the nose to nose duel with Halling evaporated half a mile from home. Walter Swinburn's white breeches had been high in the sky as Halling lobbed down the back stretch, Cigar in his sights.

At the same time as Jerry Bailey tightened his grip on Cigar and asked him to quicken past the leaders to win the Breeders' Cup Classic, Swinburn sat down in his saddle and began to push. Cigar burst clear, Halling fell away.

An overnight tropical storm had turned the New York dirt track to 'muddy,' a new surface for Cigar. Asked if he knew that his champion would handle it, Bill Mott, the horse's trainer, replied: "It was an unanswered question. I had not seen him run over a wet track, but then I had not seen him run over jumps, either. Maybe that's next!"

A few hurdles would not have inconvenienced Cigar on Saturday. The only thing that might stop him winning would be the prospect of meeting 40 beautiful mares a year at stud. But his owner, Allen Paulson, intimated yesterday that Cigar would be wintered at Payson Park, Florida, and if the horse were fit and healthy, he would be prepared for the Dubai World Cup in March, the richest race ever to be run.

Halling failed to fire; his running was too bad to be true, and if he is in peak form next spring the Godolphin horse will do battle again.

One Breeders' Cup winner who is expected to be sent to the paddocks is Ridgewood Pearl. The brilliant Irish filly has been booked to Rainbow Quest and goes into probable retirement as champion at her distance after beating Fastness by two lengths in the Mile, her fourth Group One success of the season.

In the middle of the night before her race she became cast in her box, but was rescued by the Godolphin security guards. Ridgewood Pearl's owner, Sean Coughlan, promised them a case of vintage champagne.

Coughlan, who came to England in 1957 rich in optimism but short of cash, was once a London bus conductor. "It was a good job — you didn't have to use your own money for lunches." He built up a successful civil engineering business, and retired to concentrate on his small breeding and racing operation.

A devout Catholic, Coughlan chose the papal colours of yellow and white for his racing silks, and in the days preceding the Breeders' Cup, the dutiful kept adding a little Lourdes water to his filly's feed.

Judging by her performance, it should go on the list of proscribed substances. Not that Ridgewood Pearl needed divine intervention, relishing the testing ground she won on merit and will be a strong contender for the Horse Of The Year title.

The English trio failed in the Sprint, Owington emerging best in seventh, but European horses fared better in the Breeders' Cup Turf, filling the next four places behind Nothern Spur.

Under a masterful ride from Chris McCarron, Northern Spur swept into the lead off the home turn, chased by Freedom Cry, and for fully a furlong it looked as though the Arc runner-up might claw back the leader.

No-one was watching more intently than André Fabre, who trains Freedom Cry and who handled Northern Spur until the colt was sold to America last year.

Northern Spur scraped home gamely by a neck and, for once, Fabre had to settle for second. Even the man Henry Cecil calls "God" cannot win them all.

Baseball

No happy hunting ground for Indians in Braves' new world

Ian Katz

THE most upwardly mobile city in the United States won its first professional sports title, and baseball came close to redemption, as the Atlanta Braves ground out a meagre win over the Cleveland Indians to clinch the World Series on Saturday night.

The Braves, who went into the game leading the series 3-2 after the Indians had recovered from 2–0 down, had already scheduled a victory parade for today but seemed haunted by the memory of their World Series defeats in 1991 and 1992.

Their 1–0 victory owed most to a textbook pitching performance by Tom Glavine, their underrated left-hander, who confined the usually free-swinging Indians to a single hit in his eight innings on the mound.

Fittingly Glavine, the series' Most Valuable Player, was the fans' No. 1 bogeyman during last year's ugly pay dispute when he served as a highly visible players' representative. Villain to hero in one summer: the perfect American story.

The other story of the night was David Justice's sixth-inning homer. Saturday's headlines had been full of a supposed attack on the Atlanta fans by the close-cropped right-fielder, who told an interviewer that if the Braves did not win the series their fans would "probably burn our houses down".

Justice was booed as he took the field in Atlanta, but instantly forgiven as he cracked a fast ball from the Indians' leftie Jim Poole over the right field wall to give the Braves the lead and ultimately the win.

Five out of the six games of the Fall Classic were won by a single run but the margin scarcely did justice to the Braves, whose superior pitching smothered the Cleveland hitters through most of the series.

Hockey

Jennings leads goal rush

Pat Rowley

ENGLAND may have trouble scoring goals but not so the top clubs. The weekend's nine First Division games in the National League produced 59, with four for Ian Jennings (Guildford) and hat-tricks for Scott Ashdown (Reading), Bobby Crutchley (Cannock), Dharminder Singh (Barford) and Billy Waugh (Southgate).

Ashdown's hat-trick — his first — came from open play in the first 20 minutes of Reading's game against Trojans on Saturday. Reading led 6–0 at half-time and went on to win 8–1, their biggest First Division victory.

Their fourth win took them three points clear in the league table, and Loughtonians failed to join them at the top when held to a 3–3 draw yesterday at Surbiton. Without the goalkeeper Seaton, who was injured warming up, and Halls they came back from 3–1 down, helped by Jason Lee's second goal.

Superb corner drills helped Guildford and Southgate to big victories. Three of Jennings's four goals came from corners in a 7–1 win over Bournville, and Southgate converted five in a 7–0 victory over St Albans.

Crutchley will surely have played himself into Great Britain consideration with his third hat-trick since joining Cannock, who equalled the First Division's record win with their 9–0 success over Hull. Two of Crutchley's goals came from corners.

Calum Giles, who took over Crutchley's England corner role, scored twice as Havant, the 1994 champions, continued their climb with a 4–1 win over East Grinstead.

Hounslow and Teddington continue to struggle. Hounslow had difficulty against the lowly Stourport before winning 2–1, and the champions Teddington, 2–0 down against Gymkhana, dropped further points in a 2-2 draw.

In the Second Division the Australian Martin Allen scored his first goal and then three more to help Blueharts to a 5–3 win over Oxford University that put them second behind Beeston.

Newcastle card with guide to the form

1.30 Mbulwa
2.00 Domak Amaam
2.30 Shemozzle
3.00 Lady Sheriff
3.30 Bee Health Boy
4.00 Double Splendour

Draw: No advantage. Going: Good to firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since latest outing

1.30 BEDLINGTON CLAIMING HANDICAP 7f £3,028

101 101060 BLOW DRY (20) (D) M Wane 5-8-11 — A Mackay 14
102 535366 BEST KEPT SECRET (20) (C) J Berry 4-9-9 — P Fessey (5) 1
103 005315 MBULWA (6) (C) (D) (BF) R Fahey 9-9-9 — Martin Dwyer (7) 13
104 120000 MOVE SMARTLY (21) (D) F Lee 5-8-6 — N Carlisle 4★
105 332042 DR CALIGARI (8) J Berry 3-8-5 — J Carroll 18
106 304800- NATURAL PATH (405) Mrs V Aconley 4-8-4 — M Deering 16
107 000420 KING OF SHOW (74) R Allan 4-8-0 — C Teague (5) 17
108 016200 DANTE'S RUBICON (38) (D) J Bethell 4-8-0 — W Carson 11
109 460-00 LA DAMA (4) F O'Mahony 3-8-13 — R McAndrew 5
110 103004 NORTHERN SPARK (58) (D) Miss L Perratt 7-8-11 — G Duffield 10
111 00-5360 THWAAB (42) F Watson 3-8-11 — M Fenton 9
112 000400 MOOFAJI (16) F Watson 4-8-10 — S Maloney 20
113 060000 SAINT AMIGO (11) (D) J Eyre 3-8-9 — T Williams 15
114 045236 MATISSE (7) J Bethell 4-8-8 — K Fallon 7
115 060000 PEACEFULL REPLY (38) F Lee 5-8-8 — G Carter 12
116 P000 SHEBOOT (10) D Moffatt 3-8-7 — Darren Moffatt (3) 18
117 00-0000 HIGH HOLME (11) D Thom 4-8-7 — L Dettori 3
118 425060 BOOST (10) C Thornton 3-8-7 — D McKeown 2
119 0-05000 AQUILETTA (38) C Booth 5-8-6 — M Birch 8
120 4000 SEMI SERIOUS (27) D Chapman 3-8-5 — A Culhane 6

TOP FORM TIPS: Dr Caligari 8, Mbulwa 7, Best Kept Secret 6

1994: Level Edge 3 9 0 L Dettori 10-1 (M Johnston) 19 ran

Betting: 7-1 Mbulwa, 8-1 Dr Caligari, 10-1 Northern Spark, Matisse, 12-1 Best Kept Secret, Thwaab, 14-1 Dante's Rubicon, King Of Show. 20 runners

FORM GUIDE - BLOW DRY: In seller last time, prominent until weakened over 2f out, 13th of 20, btn 11l to Nashaat (Leicester 7f, Gd).
BEST KEPT SECRET: Fair effort in well-contested seller last time when held up, some late headway, 6th of 19 to Media Express (Chepstow 1m, Gd-Sft).
MBULWA: Has been a most consistent animal this season, last time, effort over 2f out, one pace, btn 6l 3rd of 14 to Night Wink (Redcar 1m, Fm).
DR CALIGARI: In a minor claiming event last time, led over 6f, ran on one pace, btn 2l 2nd of 20 to Tony's Gift (Leicester 1m, Fm).
THWAAB: Never dangerous, 12l 11th of 13 to Friar Street, (Edinburgh 7f, Gd).
MATISSE: Kept on under pressure inside final 1f, 4l 6th of 19 to Cicerone. (Leicester 1m, Fm).

2.00 EBF AMBLE MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 6f £3,096

201 52400 ANSWERS-TO-THOMAS (17) J Jefferson 9-0 — D McKeown 5
202 00 BALLYKISSANGEL (19) N Bycroft 9-0 — K Fallon 1
203 3 DOMAK AMAAM (20) J Gosden 9-0 — L Dettori 9
204 05 GELLING DANCER (23) P Calver 9-0 — M Birch 8
205 0 HIGHFIELD PET (10) M Johnston 9-0 — T Williams 7
206 INSIDEOUT F Watson 9-0 — M Fenton 10
207 60 MANOY (10) J Hetherton 9-0 — N Kennedy 12
208 4 MANSAB (30) J Dunlop 9-0 — W Carson 3
209 000000 MIDNIGHT COOKIE (7) B Pearce 9-0 — Dane O'Neill (5) 11
210 0 PIVOTAL (11) M Prescott 9-0 — G Duffield 4
211 5600 CHAMBER MUSIC (16) J Berry 8-9 — J Carroll 6
212 0 LAPU-LAPU (17) M Camacho 8-9 — L Charnock 2

TOP FORM TIPS: Domak Amaam 10, Mansab 8, Pivotal 7

1994: Super Park 2 9 0 S Maloney 8-13 (M H Easterby) 11 ran

Betting: 6-4 Domak Amaam, 9-4 Mansab, 7-1 Pivotal, Answers-To-Thomas, 12-1 Chamber Music, 16-1 Highfield Pet. 12 runners

FORM GUIDE - ANSWERS-TO-THOMAS: Held up, effort halfway, soon weakened, btn 7l 11th of 18 to Swynford Dream (Catterick 6f, Gd-Fm).
BALLYKISSANGEL: Tailed off over 4f last of 8 to Circled (Haydock 7f, Gd-Sft).
DOMAK AMAAM: Promising debut effort, led over 2f out, one pace after, btn 3l 3rd of 12 to Gold Disc (Leicester 7f, Gd).
MANSAB: Headway over 2f out, every chance well over 1f out, one pace, btn 3l 4th of 7 to Trafalgar Lady (Goodwood 6f, Gd).
PIVOTAL: Backward and slowly into stride, until good headway and ran on well in final stages, should improve, 3l 6th of 20 to Fly Tip (Newbury 6f, Gd-Sft).
LAPU-LAPU: Showed promise on debut when slowly away, headway 2f out, hampered and never placed to challenge. 8th of 11, btn 11l to Singing Patriarch (Catterick 6f, Gd-Fm).

2.30 ALNWICK MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO 7f £2,761

301 ABIR H Thomson Jones 8-11 — G Carter 15
302 00 ARCADY (7) P Walwyn 8-11 — K Darley 12
303 BLOSSOM DEARIE G Moore 8-11 — D McKeown 6
304 60 CHAMPAGNE WARRIOR (17) M Camacho 8-11 — L Charnock 11
305 63 DAIRA (38) J Bethell 8-11 — J Carroll 2
306 0 FLORRIEPIE (7) J L Harris 8-11 — A Mackay 5
307 OLDOHAM SOUND M H Easterby 8-11 — S Maloney 13
308 0 HALLIKELD (37) T Etherington 8-11 — J Lowe 10
309 RADMORE BRANDY S Norton 8-11 — T Williams 5
310 RIVER DIVINE M Stoute 8-11 — K Fallon 9
311 1 SHEMOZZLE (17) J Gosden 8-11 — L Dettori 2
312 0 SING AND DANCE (30) E Weymes 8-11 — Dale Gibson 1
313 0 SIS GARDEN (91) M H Easterby 8-11 — M Birch 14
314 THE FULLBANGLADESH J Eyre 8-11 — R Lappin 4
315 0 VERONICA FRANCO (10) J Dunlop 8-11 — W Carson 7

TOP FORM TIPS: Shemozzle 8, Daira 7, Champagne Warrior 7

No corresponding race

Betting: 5-2 River Divine, 3-1 Shemozzle, 7-2 Abir, 8-1 Oldoham Sound, 10-1 Daira, 14-1 Arcady, 16-1 Champagne Warrior 15 runners

FORM GUIDE - ARCADY: Prominent until weakened final f, 8th of 13, btn 9l to Tsarnista (Lingfield 7f, Gd).
CHAMPAGNE WARRIOR: Bit backward and always behind, about 28l 11th of 12 to Hilaala (Catterick 7f, Gd-Fm)
SHEMOZZLE: In a poorly contested challenge race on debut, slight ld 3f out and driven out to bt Martha Quest by 3l, 3 ran (Newmarket 7f, Gd-Fm)

3.00 ASHINGTON HANDICAP 5f £3,978

401 252452 LADY SHERIFF (16) (D) M W Easterby 4-10-0 — L Dettori 9★
402 000000 ASHTINA (9) (D) B Pearce 10-9-12 — Dane O'Neill (5) 10
403 300-355 PRINCESS SADIE (68) (D) M Johnston 3-9-8 — T Williams 13
404 680000 SHADOW JURY (33) (D) D Chapman 5-8-2 — L Charnock 8★
405 000400 ENCORE M'LADY (23) (D) F Lee 4-8-12 — G Carter 12★
406 300003 METAL BOYS (94) (D) Miss L Siddall 8-8-10 — G Hind 5
407 003085 JUCEA (11) (D) J Spearing 6-8-9 — K Fallon 7
408 00-2405 SIX FOR LUCK (35) (D) D Nolan 3-8-7 — V Halliday 11
409 002346 DOMICKSKY (11) (D) M Channon 7-8-1 — P P Murphy (5) 14
410 400001 FOLLOWMEGIRLS (42) (D) Mrs A King 6-7-12 — A Garth 6★
411 055001 LEADING PRINCESS (35) (D) Miss L Perratt 4-7-7 — P Fessey (5) 1★
412 50-0530 RAJAN FRONTIER (27) F Lee 3-7-7 — K Carlisle 3
413 050060 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE (119) (D) J Goldie 3-7-7 — J Quinn 2
414 000- SERIOUS FACT (336) M Prescott 3-7-7 — J Lowe 4

TOP FORM TIPS: Lady Sheriff 8, Jucea 7, Metal Boys 6

No corresponding race

Betting: 9-2 Lady Sheriff, 7-1 Jucea, Princess Sadie, Metal Boys, 8-1 Followmegirls, 10-1 Ashtina, Encore M'lady. 14 runners

FORM GUIDE - LADY SHERIFF: Has been most consistent this season despite rising through the weights, last time, effort over 1f out, not quicken inside final 1f, btn 1l 2nd of 19 to Insider Trader (Catterick 5f, Gd-Fm).
ASHTINA: Disappointed last time when raced last to halfway, soon weakened and tailed off last of 10 in race won by Croft Pool (Doncaster 5f, Gd-Fm).
PRINCESS SADIE: On first run for new stable, effort halfway, soon btn. 10l 5th of 7 to Ssamel (Redcar 6f, Gd-Fm).
DOMICKSKY: Fair effort last time when behind until good late headway, nearest at finish, 8th of 25, btn 2l to Little Ibnr (Nottingham 5f, Gd-Fm).
SIX FOR LUCK: In conditions stakes last time, led till hdd and wknd over 2f out, btn 10l 5th of 6 to Art of War (Hamilton 6f, Gd). FOLLOWMEGIRLS: Slowly into stride, headway 2f out, led inside final 1f, ran on strongly, bt Leigh Crofter by 1l, with LADY SHERIFF (gv 29lb), effort over 2f out, squeezed for room inside final 1f, further 1l away 4th of 23 (Leicester 5f, Sft).

3.30 BLYTH NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO 7f £3,566

501 001300 OBLOMOV (17) (D) G Lewis 9-7 — K Darley 1★
502 000 TASLIYA (17) J Dunlop 9-7 — W Carson 5
503 201464 STANDOWN (18) J Berry 8-12 — P Fessey (5) 3
504 112330 SOCIETY GIRL (84) (D) C Thornton 8-11 — D McKeown 2
505 426510 QUALITY (12) W O'Gorman 8-10 — Emma O'Gorman 6★
506 555014 ERIC'S BETT (14) Mrs S Austin 8-9 — D Denby (7) 4
507 063014 BEE HEALTH BOY (18) M W Easterby 8-7 — L Dettori 7★
508 355402 TERMON (36) Miss L Perratt 8-0 — T Williams 8

TOP FORM TIPS: Standown 8, Bee Health Boy 7, Termon 6

1994: Flamboro 2 8 13 J Weaver 16-1 (J Bethell) 20 ran

Betting: 3-1 Standown, 7-2 Bee Health Boy, 9-2 Oblomov, 5-1 Society Girl, 6-1 Eric's Bett, 8-1 Quality, 10-1 Termon. 8 runners

FORM GUIDE - OBLOMOV: Faced stiff task last time when btn from halfway, 11th of 12, btn about 15l to Mystic Knight (Newmarket 1m, Gd-Fm).
TASLIYA: Showed some improvement on latest start, behind until some late headway, 9th of 21, btn 7l to Projection (Newmarket 6f, Gd-Fm).
STANDOWN: No extra final furlong, 4th of 18, btn 2l to Lunar Mist (Newmarket 6f, Gd-Fm).
SOCIETY GIRL: Well btn in well-contested nursery last time when 15th of 17, btn about 15l to My Branch (Doncaster 6f, Gd-Fm).
BEE HEALTH BOY: Chased ldrs, hung lft halfway, kept on, btn 5l 4th of 11 to Charterhouse Xpres (Haydock 6f, Gd-Sft).
TERMON: Late headway when btn 6l by Sapoy (Hamilton 6f, Gd).

4.00 MORPETH HANDICAP 6f £3,457

601 130141 DOUBLE SPLENDOUR (19) (D) P Felgate 5-8-10 — G Hind 15
602 353610 BIRCHWOOD SUN (20) (C) (D) M Dods 5-9-10 — K Darley 5★
603 604206 PETRACO (7) (D) N Smith 7-9-8 — S D Williams 20
604 02-4210 ALWAYS GRACE (61) (D) Miss G Kelleway 3-9-8 — Dane O'Neill (5) 9
605 244600 CAPTAIN CARAT (33) (D) (BF) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-6 — K Fallon 16
606 420000 GIGGLESWICK GIRL (11) (D) M Channon 4-9-5 — P P Murphy (5) 3
607 604225 MISTER WESTSOUND (6) (D) (BF) Miss L Perratt 3-9-4 — G Duffield 9★
608 104050 SIR TASKER (14) (D) J L Harris 7-9-0 — A Mackay 14
609 00-2502 STUFFED (14) (D) M W Easterby 3-9-0 — L Dettori 10
610 421003 HI ROCK (26) (D) M Camacho 3-8-13 — L Charnock 4
611 000003 SLIVOVITZ (16) (D) M Heaton-Ellis 5-8-12 — Amanda Sanders (7) 1★
612 011005 DENSBEN (14) (CD) Denys Smith 11-8-12 — C Teague (5) 18
613 162000 DIET (23) (D) Miss L Perratt 9-8-11 — K Sked (7) 19★
614 003260 CRAIGIE BOY (26) (D) N Bycroft 5-8-11 — S Maloney 13★
615 0-53322 KIRA (7) J Eyre 5-8-7 — R Lappin 12
616 600000 STAND TALL (30) C Thornton 3-8-4 — D McKeown 2
617 304000 THE FED (11) R Whitaker 5-8-3 — A Culhane 17★
618 000-000 LIGHT MOVEMENT (151) W Cunningham 5-8-2 — Dale Gibson 8
619 5-56 FALLAL (24) K McAuliffe 3-8-2 — M Fenton 7
620 244002 MURRAY'S MAZDA (33) (D) J Eyre 8-8-1 — J Quinn 11

TOP FORM TIPS: Double Splendour 8, Captain Carat 7, Densben 6

No corresponding race

Betting: 7-1 Double Splendour, 8-1 Captain Carat, 12-1 Petraco, Murray's Mazda, Kira, Densben, Stuffed, Birchwood Sun. 20 runners

FORM GUIDE - DOUBLE SPLENDOUR: Led inside final furlong, beat Be Warned by 1l (Haydock 6f, Gd-Sft).
BIRCHWOOD SUN: Always behind in jockeys challenge race won by Jiberse, btn around 9l 9th of 12 (Chepstow 7f, Gd-Sft).
STUFFED: Chased leaders, hdwy to challenge inside final 1f, ran on, btn 1l 2nd of 16 to Stallee, with DENSBEN (gv 1lb), behind until ran on well through the final 2f, further 2l back in 5th and SIR TASKER (hd), never went pace, bin further 11l back in 14th (Pontefract 5f, Fm).
SLIVOVITZ: Ran on well when 1l 3rd of 19 to Insider Trader (Catterick 5f, Gd-Fm).
CRAIGIE BOY: Headway over 1f out, stayed on at finish, btn around 2l 8th of 20 to Twice As Sharp, with CAPTAIN CARAT (gv 11lb), switched left over 1f out, stayed on well, btn further nk in 9th, and GIGGLESWICK GIRL (gv 11lb), headway final 1f, 1l away 9th (Newcastle 5f, Gd).

Results

BELMONT PARK

3.55: 1, MY FLAG, J Bailey; **2, Cara Rafaela; 3, Golden Attraction.** 8 ran. ¾, 1¼. (C McGaughey) NR: Ocean View. Tote: 9.00; Place 5.00, 6.90. Show 2.80, 2.90, 2.30. Exacta 42.40 Trifecta 76.50. (Dividends include 2 unit stake).

4.37: 1, DESERT STORMER, K Desormeaux; **2, Mr Greeley; 3, Lit de Justice.** 13 ran. Nk. 2. (F Lyons) NR: Classy Mirage. Tote: 31.00; Place 15.80, 28.00. Show 18.40, 15.80, 16.40. Exacta 733.00 Trifecta 4,300.00. Owington was combined as a field horse with the winner and the third.

4.59: 1, INSIDE INFORMATION, M Smith; **2, Heavenly Prize; 3, Lakeway.** 10 ran. 13¼, 2¼. (C McGaughey). Tote: 3.60; Place 3.20, Show 2.20, 4.80. Exacta 34.20 Trifecta 1114.00.

5.31: 1, RIDGEWOOD PEARL, J P Murtagh; **2, Fastness; 3, Sayyedati.** 13 ran. 2, 7. (J Oxx). NR: Harayir. Tote: 7.10; Place 4.40, 6.20. Show 3.80, 4.60, 7.00. Exacta 47.60. Trifecta 478.00. Pick Three 224.50.

6.03: 1, UNBRIDLED'S SONG, M Smith; **2, Hennessy; 3, Editor's Note.** 13 ran. Nk, 4. (J Ryerson). Tote: 12.40; Place 8.10, 8.50. Show 6.70, 6.70, 7.90. Exacta 108.50. Trifecta 1106.00.

6.35: 1, NORTHERN SPUR, C McCarron; **2, Freedom Cry; 3, Carnegie.** 13 ran. Nk, 2. (R McAnally). Tote: 9.90; Place 4.70, 5.00. Show 3.80, 3.50, 3.70. Exacta 52.50 Trifecta 172.50.

7.10: 1, CIGAR, J Bailey; **2, L'Carriere; 3, Unaccounted For.** 11 ran. 2½, 1. (W Mott). Tote: 3.40; Place 3.60, 22.20. Show 2.90, 10.00, 3.50. Exacta 85.50. Trifecta 277.00.

Plumpton (N.H.)

1.45 MISTER O'GRADY (nap)
2.15 Lord Glenvara
2.45 The Whip (nb)
3.15 Call Me Albi
3.45 Dear Do
4.15 Durshan

Going: Good to Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.

1.45 BOROUGH GREEN NOVICE HURDLE 2m 1f £2,579

1 011042 IKHTIRAA (13) (CD) R O'Sullivan 5-11-8 — S Curran (3)
2 BAY BOB T Casey 6-11-0 — M A Fitzgerald
3 BRANDONHURST Lady Herries 5-11-0 — E Murphy
4 00-30 FALSE CREEK (136) G Harwood 5-11-0 — M Perrett
5 6/5///- HOW'S YER FATHER (1906) R Hodges 9-11-0 — T Dascombe (7)
6 00426//- SALUTING WALTER (943) R Akehurst 7-11-0 — S Ryan (7)
7 0/- SILENT SOVEREIGN (807) P Clarke 6-11-0 — B Fenton (5)
8 2505-2 AMBER VALLEY (8) D Williams 4-10-13 — A P McCoy
9 0- BUCKLAND LAD (236) D Grissell 4-10-13 — M Richards
10 00- LUCAYAN CAY (308) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-13 — W Marston
11 30-2 MISTER O'GRADY (16) R Akehurst 4-10-13 — D Bridgwater
12 SILVER HUNTER G Bravery 4-10-13 — A Maguire
13 3/-04232 ROYAL THIMBLE (9) Noel T Chance 4-10-8 — Mr R Johnson (5)

1994: Smart In Sable 7 10 9 M Richards 3-1 (P Hedger) 9 ran

Betting: 3-1 Mister O'Grady, 4-1 Brandonhurst, 5-1 Amber Valley, 7-1 False Creek, 8-1 Royal Thimble, Ikhtiraa, 10-1 How's Yer Father. 13 runners

2.15 1st PAST THE POST CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' SELL HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 1f £1,956

1 42141/I- PROSEQUENDO (1043) (C) G L Moore 8-12-0 — M Attwater (5)
2 2P6250- HOLIDAY ISLAND (149) P Butler 6-11-11 — G Hogan
3 F/5253-1 LORD GLENVARA (5) (6lb ex) T McGovern 7-11-8 — B Fenton
4 0063-35 ROGER'S PAL (28) (CD) A Moore 8-11-3 — M Batchelor (7)
5 0523-60 MISTER BLAKE (114) Mrs A Hamilton-Fairley 5-11-0 — D Leahy
6 000050- DONTDRESSFORDINNER (167) C Popham 5-10-11 — T Dascombe (3)
7 25405-5 LAVALIGHT (12) (D) R Hodges 8-10-9 — J Harris (7)
8 303344 YEOMAN BOUND (10) J Jenkins 7-10-6 — D Yellowlees (7)
9 /I/I/P0P- COURAGE-MON-BRAVE (236) R Hoad 7-10-4 — T J Murphy
10 054P5-5 PONTEVECCHIO BELLA (8) (C) Mrs L Jewell 9-10-3 — W Walsh (5)
11 0-402 SHARP GAZELLE (12) B Smart 5-10-0 — M Molloy (3)
12 /P6P0P/- ASSEMBLY DANCER (669) D Williams 8-10-0 — M Clarke (3)

1994: Do Be Ware 4 10 0 D Bridgwater 20-1 (J Ffitch-Heyes) 17 ran

Betting: 11-4 Lord Glenvara, 7-2 Sharp Gazelle, 9-2 Yeoman Bound, 5-1 Roger's Pal, 10-1 Prosequendo, Lavalight, 12-1 Mister Blake. 12 runners

2.45 COOMBS HANDICAP CHASE 2m 3f £3,493

1 04U44-1 HAWAIIAN YOUTH (26) R Rowe 7-11-10 — D O'Sullivan
2 P-1225P SOHAIL (25) (C) J King 12-11-7 — M A Fitzgerald
3 4241-41 PAPER STAR (13) (CD) M Muggeridge 8-11-5 — B Powell
4 31132-2 THE WHIP (25) (CD) (BF) D Grissell 8-11-5 — Peter Hobbs
5 4-P3344 VICTORY ANTHEM (16) (CD) P Clarke 9-10-3 — B Fenton (5)
6 4-21262 OH SO HANDY (13) (CD) (BF) R Curtis 7-10-0 — D Morris ★

1994: Jim Valentine 8 10 10 W Marston 25-1 (D J Wintle) 10 ran

Betting: 9-4 Hawaiian Youth, 5-2 Paper Star, 3-1 The Whip, 6-1 Oh So Handy, 8-1 Victory Anthem, 12-1 Sohail. 6 runners

3.15 COOMBS HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 4f £2,427

1 20-1 CALL ME ALBI (13) (CD) G L Moore 4-11-11 — A P McCoy
2 01413-5 BAYLORD PRINCE (126) (C) Miss J Ewer 7-10-12 — Sophie Mitchell (5)
3 310050- LOOSE CHANGE (196) A Moore 4-10-7 — B Powell
4 858135- DUNLIR (158) P Rodford 5-10-0 — S Burrough

1994: Ramallah 5 11 1 A Maguire 4-1 (J White) 14 ran

Betting: 4-7 Call Me Albi, 5-2 Baylord Prince, 5-1 Dunlir, 20-1 Loose Change. 4 runners

3.45 WALLY COOMBS HANDICAP CHASE 2m £2,898

1 5-11332 WAVE HILL (16) P Hedger 6-11-10 — M Richards
2 21221-3 DEAR DO (22) (D) N Henderson 8-11-3 — M A Fitzgerald
3 3U3313 STARLAP (16) (D) R Buckler 11-10-11 — B Powell
4 5-55052 EMERALD MOON (8) P Rodford 8-10-3 — S Burrough
5 P3241P- DAWN CHANCE (151) (D) R Hodges 9-10-2 — A Tory
6 2-P42FP STRIDING EDGE (23) (CD) R O'Sullivan 10-10-0 — D Bridgwater ★
7 35-43 ELSDON (12) (BF) C Popham 4-10-0 — T Dascombe (7)

1994: Rustic Gent 8 10 1 Mr S Pollock 11-2 (Mrs L Jewell) 7 ran

Betting: 7-4 Dear Do, 9-4 Wave Hill, 7-2 Starlap, 8-1 Dawn Chance, 8-1 Emerald Moon, 25-1 Elsdon, 66-1 Striding Edge. 7 runners

4.15 CATFORD MAIDEN HURDLE 2m 4f £2,122

1 DEVON MISSILE Mrs L Jewell 6-11-0 — J Railton
2 0P5/-444 DURSHAN (9) J Jenkins 6-11-0 — A Maguire ★
3 DUSTY POINT C Dwyer 5-11-0 — V Smith
4 SHARP BLADE Mrs D Haine 5-11-0 — J F Titley
5 3 RAFIQ (83) Mrs L Jewell 4-10-13 — W Walsh (7)
6 005 THE CHAIRMAN (10) F Jordan 4-10-13 — J Ledder

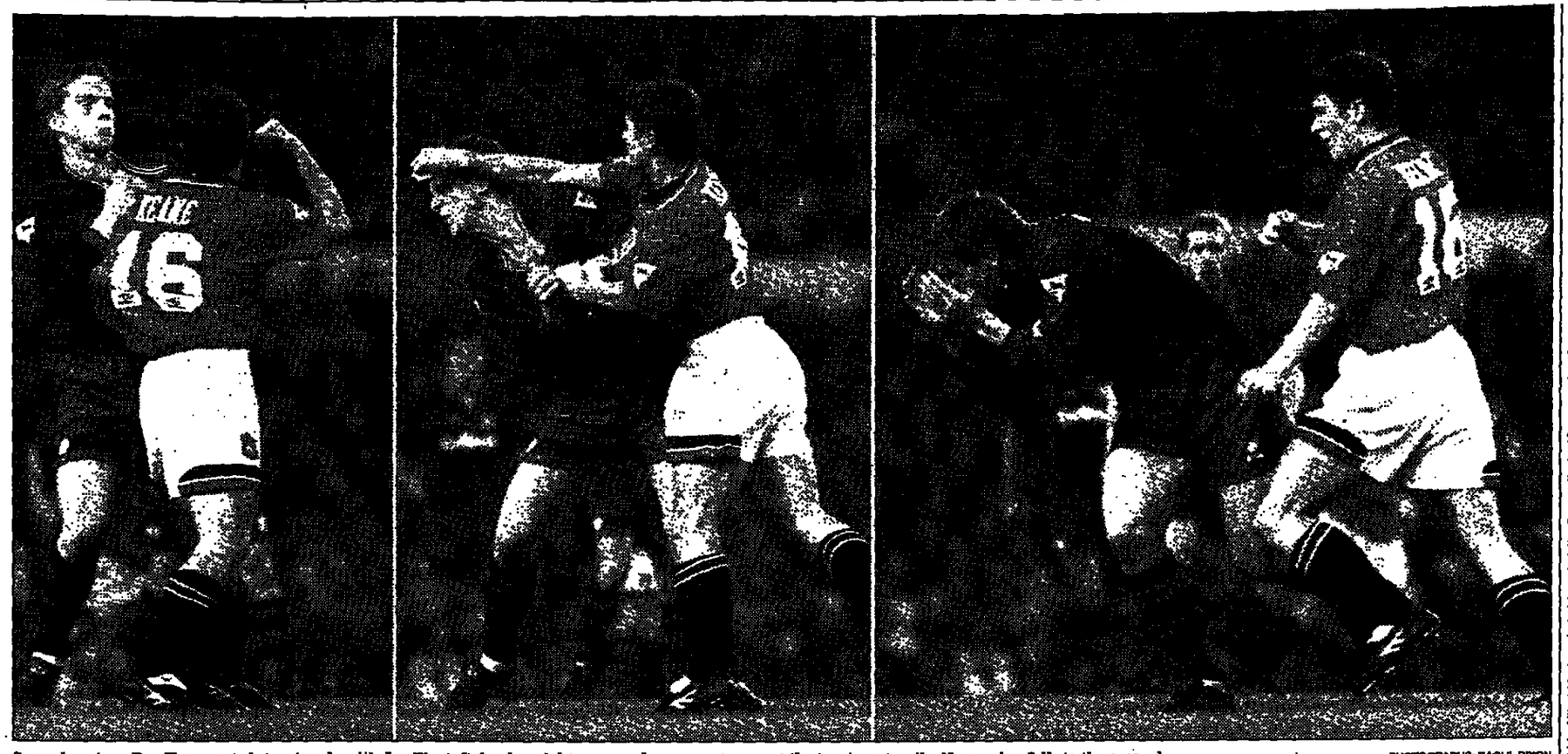
No corresponding race

Betting: 7-4 Durshan, 9-4 Dusty Point, 9-2 Sharp Blade, 5-1 Devon Missile, 6-1 The Chairman, 25-1 Rafiq. 6 runners

● Blinkered for the first time — NEWCASTLE: 3.30 Oblomov, Quality.

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Seconds out . . . Roy Keane gets into a tangle with Jan Fjortoft, lands a right cross and prepares to repeat the treatment as the Norwegian falls to the ground PHOTOGRAPHS: RAOUL DIXON

Liverpool 6
Manchester City 0

City's stock at rock bottom

Ian Ross

AFTER all those weeks of whingeing and proffering lame excuses, Manchester City finally got the rub of the green. Only six conceded; splendid effort.

City's fans reacted with a dry humour that prompted genuine and sustained laughter at the spiritual home of terrace mirth. Only once the final whistle had brought respite did their mood darken, although it was more frustration than malice.

After his side's ninth defeat in 11 Premiership games, Alan Ball was still to be found clinging doggedly to the tired old line. "The fight will go on and, yes, it is a fight we will win," he said. "There is no tougher fighter on the block than me."

Quite possibly, but unfortunately City's fate will be decided by the deeds of less ambitious, less gifted and less caring men. Sadly for Ball and his chairman Francis Lee, City's immediate future does not sit in the hands of would-be winners, rather at the feet of proven losers.

Ball correctly said his team were outclassed, but he was wrong to say Liverpool were irresistible. They were made to look so by one of the poorest sides ever to crawl out of Moss Side, a team with enough dead wood to build a bonfire.

The previous Wednesday, after City had been beaten 4–0 in the Coca-Cola Cup at the same venue, Ball insisted that he and his players had learned from the experience. Learned what precisely?

This match was over as a contest after 5½ minutes when Jamie Redknapp's deflected free-kick doubled the lead that Ian Rush had provided 90 seconds earlier.

It was tempting to ask Ball what he said at half-time, for what followed the interval was abysmal. What was slight subsidence became a landslide as Fowler (2), Ruddock and Rush again punctured a defence as flimsy as tissue paper. The irony was that City's goalkeeper Immel was their outstanding player.

Long after his teammates had departed down the tunnel, heads bowed in embarrassment, City's chief malcontent Uwe Rösler threw his boots into the midst of his club's support. A curious action, but one which would suggest he had a clause inserted in his recently drawn-up contract allowing him to leave once City's relegation was confirmed.

SCORERS: Liverpool: Rush (3min, 64), Redknapp (5), Fowler (47, 80), Ruddock 53. Liverpool: James; McAteer, Wright, Babb, Scales (Kennedy, 67), Harkness, McManaman, Redknapp, Barnes, (Ruddock, 34), Rush, Fowler. Manchester City: Immel; Brightwell (Rosney, 59), Curle, Symons, Edghill, Summerbee, Flitcroft, Lomas, Kinkladze (Brown 42), Quinn, Rosler. Referee: A Wilkie (Chester-le-Street).

Premiership: Manchester United 2, Middlesbrough 0

Keane not bright in peculiar case

Commentary

David Lacey

MAYBE it was just as well that Juninho did not arrive in time to play for Middlesbrough at Old Trafford on Saturday. The young Brazilian might have come away with some misleading first impressions of the English game.

There is, for example, an apparent system of handicapping, peculiar to English football, which dictates that in order to give Manchester United's opponents a chance Roy Keane should be sent off every so often.

Since United's 10 men have won each time this has happened, perhaps their Irish handicap should be re-examined.

Juninho may also believe that Ryan Giggs is the best left-winger in the British game today. But had he been playing at Old Trafford he would have seen Giggs cast in the role of a thinking man's David Batty, and Juninho has already had painful experience of the unthinking version at Wembley.

He might also have wondered what sort of an English team not only substitutes a Bolivian for a Norwegian but then allows the latter to add a singularly dry wit to the normal aridity of the post-match press conference. "Juninho won't find the language a problem," said Jan Fjortoft. "He only needs to know three bits of English: pound, thank you and bye-bye."

Seriously though, it is easy to see why Bryan Robson, who returned to Old Trafford to warm applause, worked so hard to sign Juninho. Robson's resilient team have made enormous strides during their short period back in the Premiership but more quality is still needed near goal.

Yet Barmby and Hignett have an important understanding not easily cast aside, and though Fjortoft tends to run in slow motion, like the Six-Million Dollar Man, his speed of thought nicely complements the buzzing activity around him.

One thing that may surprise Juninho is the patience and composure of Middlesbrough's passing. In fact on Saturday they should have changed up a couple of gears when Manchester United found themselves reduced to 10 men after half an hour, instead of waiting until United had gone ahead two minutes before half-time.

This was Keane's third dismissal in seven months. After their anarchic conduct in the first half of the year United are still on probation and by and large their players' behaviour this season has been exemplary. Since returning from his eight-month ban Cantona has yet to give an opponent a dirty look.

On Saturday Pearson's two-footed lunge at Cantona lit the fuse that eventually found Keane seeing red. The Frenchman did not overreact but Keane ran a cricket pitch's length to offer his two planksworth, followed this up with a wild hack at a passing opponent, and received a retaliatory kick which, had the referee spotted it, would probably have seen the back of Mustoe.

Twelve minutes later Fjortoft tried to drag Keane off the ball by his shirt, whereupon the Irishman hit him in the face and was already turning towards the dressing room when the referee sent him off before booking the Norwegian striker and awarding United a free-kick.

Since Ince left, Keane has largely justified Ferguson's faith in him. Yet for a player who as recently as May was fined £5,000 by the Football Association after stamping on Crystal Palace's Gareth Southgate in an FA Cup semi-final replay, this was a singularly obtuse act.

Keane's dismissal at Blackburn in August, for two bookable offences, was harsh but Ferguson, though he still refuses to criticise the player publicly, may have found his latest transgression the hardest to forgive.

At least the disruption caused by the sending-off offered Old Trafford the rare sight of Giggs playing as an orthodox midfielder and tackling the visitors as if he was another Robson. "He's one of the best-tackling forwards I've seen," said Ferguson. "He had the freedom to go forward but on occasions he showed good maturity in staying back."

Maybe "maturity" was not the word that came naturally to mind when assessing United's eighth Premiership win of the season but, once Keane had gone, this was the quality which won them the match.

Pallister's header punished Walsh's weak punch at a corner and late in the game Cole, urgently needing a goal, gathered a through-pass from Cantona, turned smartly inside Pearson and saw Walsh half-block his shot before the ball spun over the goalkeeper and into the net.

Would Juninho have made a difference to the result? Probably not in his first game, although Fjortoft does not think the Brazilian will have problems settling in. "He shouldn't find the physical side hard," said Fjortoft. "Brazilian football is very tough these days.

"We need his quality and we'll do everything we can to help him settle in here, but we won't be looking after him like Mother Teresa."

That saintly lady might be better employed sorting out Roy Keane. Certainly some deity or other was on United's side when Pallister brought down Moreno, who had replaced Fjortoft, in the penalty area and got away with it.

SCORERS: Manchester United: Pallister (43min), Cole (87).
Manchester United: Schmeichel; G Neville, Bruce, Pallister, Irwin, Butt, Keane, Scholes (McClair, h-t), Giggs, Cole, Cantona.
Middlesbrough: Walsh; Cox, Pearson, Vickers, Whelan, Morris (Moore, 70), Pollock, Mustoe, Hignett, Barmby, Fjortoft (Moreno, 70).
Referee: S Lodge (Barnsley).

Blackburn Rovers 3, Chelsea 0

Bohinen opens Rovers' eyes

Cynthia Bateman

THIS was Blackburn's sixth domestic game unbeaten — a good run interrupted by the Champions' League defeat by Legia Warsaw, whom they meet again at Ewood Park on Wednesday.

However, much of the difference has been the arrival of Lars Bohinen from Nottingham Forest. Against Chelsea, his creativity turned Rovers' tunnel vision into a kaleidoscope of opportunity. "There was a lack of confidence in the team and I think there was an edginess about the supporters too. He has settled everyone down," said the manager Ray Harford. Unfortunately Bohinen is ineligible to play for Blackburn in Europe.

Ripley's linking with him early in the first half showed Chelsea what they were up against. The Norwegian's volley from 20 yards brought the first of several cracking saves from Kharine. The Chelsea keeper was fully stretched all afternoon, despite another marvellous display in defence by Gullit.

When Sherwood — who may yet move to Stamford Bridge when Blackburn are done in Europe — scored the first goal five minutes before half-time, Chelsea had not had a shot. And it was not until the game was lost, after Shearer, with his 10th league goal of the season, and Newell, scoring his first of this league campaign, had put Rovers 3–0 ahead, that Chelsea began to create chances.

Shearer was allowed to run unchallenged from halfway, with Gullit closing fast as he reached the penalty area. As the two met, Shearer simply jinked left, played the ball on to his right foot, and produced a lethal shot from 12 yards. Then he turned provider, setting up Newell to fire home from the edge of the area.

By then Gullit had moved forward and Stein had replaced Furlong. Gullit's superb pass on the hour found Stein on the left of the area but the little striker's powerful shot sped across the goal and just the wrong side of the far post.

Asked afterwards if he thought the champions had turned the corner, Harford said: "We haven't been playing bad anyway, but there was terrific passing and great movement. It was the sort of game where we didn't want half-time to come."

It was an hour before Glenn Hoddle emerged to say he was "mystified" by Chelsea's performance. He needs a few more old friends like Gullit.



Bohinen . . . creative

SCORERS: Blackburn: Sherwood (40min), Shearer (48), Newell (58).
Blackburn: Flowers; Berg, Pearce, Hendry, Kenna, Ripley, Sherwood, Bohinen, Batty, Newell, Shearer.
Chelsea: Kharine; Sinclair (Lee, 70), Gullit, Johnsen, Newton, Burley, Rocastle, Wise, Myers, Furlong (Stein, 58), Hughes.
Referee: P Durkin (Portland).
● Blackburn expect to have talks today with the Aston Villa striker Graham Fenton.

Queens Park Rangers 1, Nottm Forest 1

Sinclair feeds the speculation

Martin Thorpe

TERRY VENABLES had taken time off from defending himself against Kate Hoey's charges to investigate allegations that Trevor Sinclair was playing well enough to be included in the next England squad.

But he then found himself sitting next to George Graham in the press box, offering him the perfect chance to mix business and pressure. For if ever there was a person who would be sympathetic to Venables's protestations of innocence it was the disgraced former Arsenal manager.

During the gaps in conversation Venables witnessed one of Sinclair's least impressive performances but saw the 22-year-old score a clever goal that must have retained the England coach's interest ahead of the November 15 game with Switzerland.

Sinclair has been in the headlines as much as Venables recently but the young QPR striker may be becoming fed up with the transfer talk.

Despite Ray Wilkins's assertions that Sinclair is not for sale, speculation to the contrary continues with a speed and tenacity reminiscent of the player himself in full flow. Last week it was Leeds who were interested, this week it is Everton, who are reported to be offering the unsettled Anders Limpar as bait.

What Wilkins could really do with is for Sinclair to stop playing well for a while. The player partly obliged on Saturday, but still salvaged a point 10 minutes from time with a stooping header just inside the post.

After a first half of tactical stalemate, Forest had gone ahead seconds after the interval when the QPR goalkeeper Sommer allowed Jason Lee's header under his outstretched arm.

Forest then sat back, allowing the sweet-passing Wilkins, even at 39, to orchestrate a stirring comeback. Impey, having earlier forced a blinding save out of Crossley, was denied a penalty and Barker hit both bar and post. But Forest hung on, and with goals from Lee and Sinclair the game ended in a deadlock deadlock.

It was enough to extend the visitors' Premiership-record unbeaten run to 24 games, but their manager Frank Clark admitted that he would like to buy a couple of players. Sinclair is, however, safe from speculation in that direction: Forest could just about afford his right leg.

SCORERS: Queens Park Rangers: Sinclair (80min). Nottingham Forest: Lee (46).
Queens Park Rangers: Sommer; Bardsley, Yates, Maddix, Ready (Osborn, 65), Bravett, Barker (Goodridge, 65), Wilkins, Impey (Brazier, 84), Gallen, Sinclair.
Nottingham Forest: Crossley; Lyttle, Chettle, Cooper, Pearce, Stone, Bart-Williams, Gemmill, Woan, Lee, Roy.
Referee: S Dunn (Bristol).

Aston Villa 1, Everton 0

Yorke a lone reminder of the spirit of Pongo

Don Beet

GUEST of honour on Saturday was a chap who has been supporting Aston Villa for 68 of his 80 years. His abiding memory is of Pongo Waring, "a centre-forward who could pick up the ball in his own penalty area and stick it in the back of the opposition net".

How he must have longed for a Waring on Saturday as these two sides made it look difficult to score at all. A dreary game was enlivened only by the efforts of Yorke, who, not for the first time this season, was Villa's saviour.

Yorke headed the only goal from Draper's cross after 76 minutes as the home side's new signing, Carl Tiler from Nottingham Forest, was receiving treatment on the sideline for what proved to be a hamstring injury.

It gives Villa's manager Brian Little something to worry about, but his problems are nothing compared with those facing Joe Royle. Everton have not won a league match since August 30 — and even then they only beat Manchester City. On top of that their injury list lengthened when Daniel Amokachi damaged his right knee so badly that he looks almost certain to miss the European Cup Winners' Cup clash with Feyenoord in Rotterdam on Thursday.

Anybody who spent 12 years managing Oldham Athletic knows all about problems, but even the always optimistic Royle is worried by Everton's complete loss of form.

"We looked soft touches here at times," he admitted. "It's puzzling after last year when we got ourselves out of trouble by being so hard to beat."

Now they look easy meat and it was surprising that Villa took so long to score the winner after Yorke had struck a post and a shot from the largely ineffective Milosevic had just cleared the bar.

Villa, needing a win to keep in touch with the teams at the top of the table, owed everything to Yorke, excelling in a free role. "Dwight has an unbelievable amount of ability on the ball," said Little.

Royle has so few players with ability on the ball that he must be considering a clear-out. Were it not for the fact that his squad has been ravaged by injury and other matters he might have started by now.

SCORER: Aston Villa: Yorke (78min).
Aston Villa: Bosnich; Charles, Ehiogu, Southgate, Tiler (Scimeca, 77), Wright, Taylor, Draper, Townsend, Yorke, Milosevic.
Everton: Southall; Jackson, Watson, Ablett, Stuart, Ebbrell, Samways, Hinchcliffe (Limpar, 78), Kanchelskis, Rideout, Amokachi (Unsworth, 85).
Referee: K Burge (Tonypandy).

Birmingham go second in First

PAUL TAIT and Steve Claridge scored the goals that gave Birmingham City a 2–1 win at Port Vale yesterday, a victory that keeps the Potteries side at the foot of the First Division and still searching for their first home league win of the season.

City, who moved into second place, survived a late onslaught as Andy Porter scored a penalty for Vale 10 minutes from time.

Garry Nelson's 16th-minute goal was enough to give Charlton their second away win of the season and condemn Luton to their fifth home defeat.

The referee Gerald Ashby has dismissed claims of ungentlemanly conduct against the Leeds captain Gary McAllister and his team-mate John Pemberton at Elland Road on Saturday.

McAllister scored the first goal of his hat-trick in the 3–1 victory over Coventry after he and Pemberton had carried off the visitors' injured striker Peter Ndlovu.

But Ashby said: "It was not ungentlemanly conduct in my book. They helped the player to the line where the Coventry trainer was in attendance."

● Don O'Riordan, the Torquay player-manager, was yesterday sacked after the 8–1 home defeat by Scunthorpe. Torquay have won one of their last 14 games and Saturday's defeat was their worst in the league for 62 years.

Endsleigh League First Division: Norwich City 1, Tranmere Rovers 1

Tranmere draw Moore satisfaction

Paul Weaver

A RECORD of one defeat in 11 games deserves credit but feelings of frustration were running high at Carrow Road yesterday as Norwich failed to capitalise on Leicester's defeat the previous day.

"Get your chequebook out, fat man," the supporters shouted at the chairman, Robert Chase, after Tranmere, who have been beaten only once in six away league games, equalised one minute into the second half.

"We do need strengthening," Norwich's manager Martin O'Neill said afterwards. "But we did create enough chances to win the game today. We were scintillating early on and the goal was out of this world, but our confidence is brittle."

Norwich dominated the opening 45 minutes and should have started the second half with a two- or three-goal advantage. Tranmere were on top in the third quarter but Norwich finished strongly and in the 88th minute Tranmere's goalkeeper Danny Coyne made an outstanding reflex save from a Darren Eadie header.

Eadie had been at the heart of the flowing move that gave Norwich the lead in the 11th minute. He started it well within his own half, defeating the labouring John Aldridge for pace with some ease. He then sprinted upfield to provide the cross that allowed Andy Johnson to get in front of Shaun Teale and beat Coyne for his fifth goal of the season, although the goalkeeper got a hand to the ball.

Tranmere equalised in the 47th minute when Ian Moore, son of Rovers' coach Ronnie, headed in unmarked from Tony Thomas's right-wing cross. Moore, who at 19 is half Aldridge's age, has scored six goals this season and this was his fifth in four games. "The lad knows where he's going," Tranmere's manager John King said. "He is a natural scorer and there is no one better to learn from than Aldo. This was not a classic but it was a good point for us."

Norwich City: Gunn, Bowen (Polston, 75min), Newsome, Prior, Ullathorne, Eadie, Crook (Milligan, 30), Johnson, O'Neill, Ward, Fleck (Akinbiyi, 71).
Tranmere Rovers: Coyne; Thomas, Teale, McGreal, Stevens, Bennett, Jones, Brannan, Nevin, Aldridge, Moore.
Referee: G Singh (Wolverhampton).

Millwall 2, West Bromwich Albion 1

Fuchs keeps his head to earn fans' ovation

Russell Thomas

IT IS not known quite what Uwe Fuchs and his family made of Dad's Army as they joined the audience in the Millwall players' lounge after the match. But the German would have appreciated the virtue of one of the show's catchphrases: "Don't panic."

As the New Den bayed its frustration at Fuchs's failings, he kept his head to deliver the close-range shot that swept Millwall to the head of the First Division. Thirty minutes later he bowed his head in gratitude to supporters chanting "Uwe, Uwe".

His improbable contribution spared him being written out of the script just before the hour as Mick McCarthy's patience wore thin. "I wasn't the only one relieved when he finally scored," the manager said. "He was relieved, the crowd was relieved, everyone was — except for Kerry Dixon." The 34-year-old substitute was warming up, ready to replace the German.

Fuchs stayed on, completing the latest unpredictable chapter in his uneasy introduction to footballing life in Docklands. Dropped and criticised by McCarthy, he has complained of being unable to settle in London and has been allowed to go back to Germany to boost his morale. The return on Millwall's record £750,000 investment is two goals, both match-winners.

Albion felt they deserved more from the afternoon but, frustratingly, Alan Buckley's crisp-passing side could not build on Hunt's deftly headed equaliser in quick response to Malkin's low shot from Fuchs's back-heel.

SCORERS: Millwall: Malkin (19min), Fuchs (69). West Bromwich Albion: Hunt (21).
Millwall: Keller; Newman, Wilter (Weber, 78), Stevens, Van Blerk, Savery, Rae, Doyle, Malkin, B Taylor, Fuchs.
West Bromwich Albion: Naylor; Burgess, Marton, Raven, Edwards (Reid, 75), Ashcroft (Smith, 75), Hamilton, Goldcott, Gilbert, Hunt, R Taylor.
Referee: G Pooley (Bishop's Stortford)

Golf

Montgomerie in top order

David Davies at Valderrama

SAM TORRANCE, head bowed and close to tears, walked off the course here knowing that he had given of his absolute best, and failed. In the final round of the Volvo Masters yesterday he had produced the best round of the day by two shots and yet Colin Montgomerie, with a 72, had enough in reserve — one shot in fact — to win the Volvo Order of Merit for the third successive year. Torrance had failed, for the 25th successive year.

The struggle between the Scots almost overshadowed the victory by the Czech-born 24-year-old Alexander Cejka, whose third win of the season was by far the biggest.

He played yesterday with a ferocious intensity, marking his winning shot, an 11ft birdie putt, with several aerial uppercuts and a wild dance on the green. He had come home in a five-birdie 32, the best of the day by two, for a round of 70 and a total of 282 that, at two under, made him the only player to beat par.

He won £125,000, almost as much as the £157,114 he had earned in the 22 events he played this year, winning, along the way tournaments in Andalucia and Austria. Yesterday's money was in fact more than he had won in his previous six years on the European tour. Little wonder that his first reaction was to say: "I cannot find the words."

Montgomerie was second, on level par, with David Gilford and Torrance jointly third on one over. Bernhard Langer, the only other player at the start of the tournament who could have won the Order, dropped shots at the 2nd and 3rd holes and finished in a two-over-par 73 for 286 having, untypically, failed to exert any pressure.

Torrance was five shots behind Montgomerie after three rounds, and out 1hr 40min before him. It gave him a chance to make a statement, and with nine putts on the first nine holes to be out in a three-under 32 he did so. He came back in level par, thanks to a marvellous drive at the 415yd 18th, which left him only a 124yd wedge. He hit that to four feet and now Montgomerie knew what he had to do.

He heard the roar as Torrance holed that putt on the 18th as he walked down the 10th. "I knew he'd gone to plus-one and that I was plus-one at the time. I had to play the last nine holes in one under and I thought, 'Well, that's a 50-50 proposition'. But I'm a better player now than I was. I haven't dropped a shot on the back nine all week and I can make pars when I need to. I can miss greens on the correct side, that sort of thing."

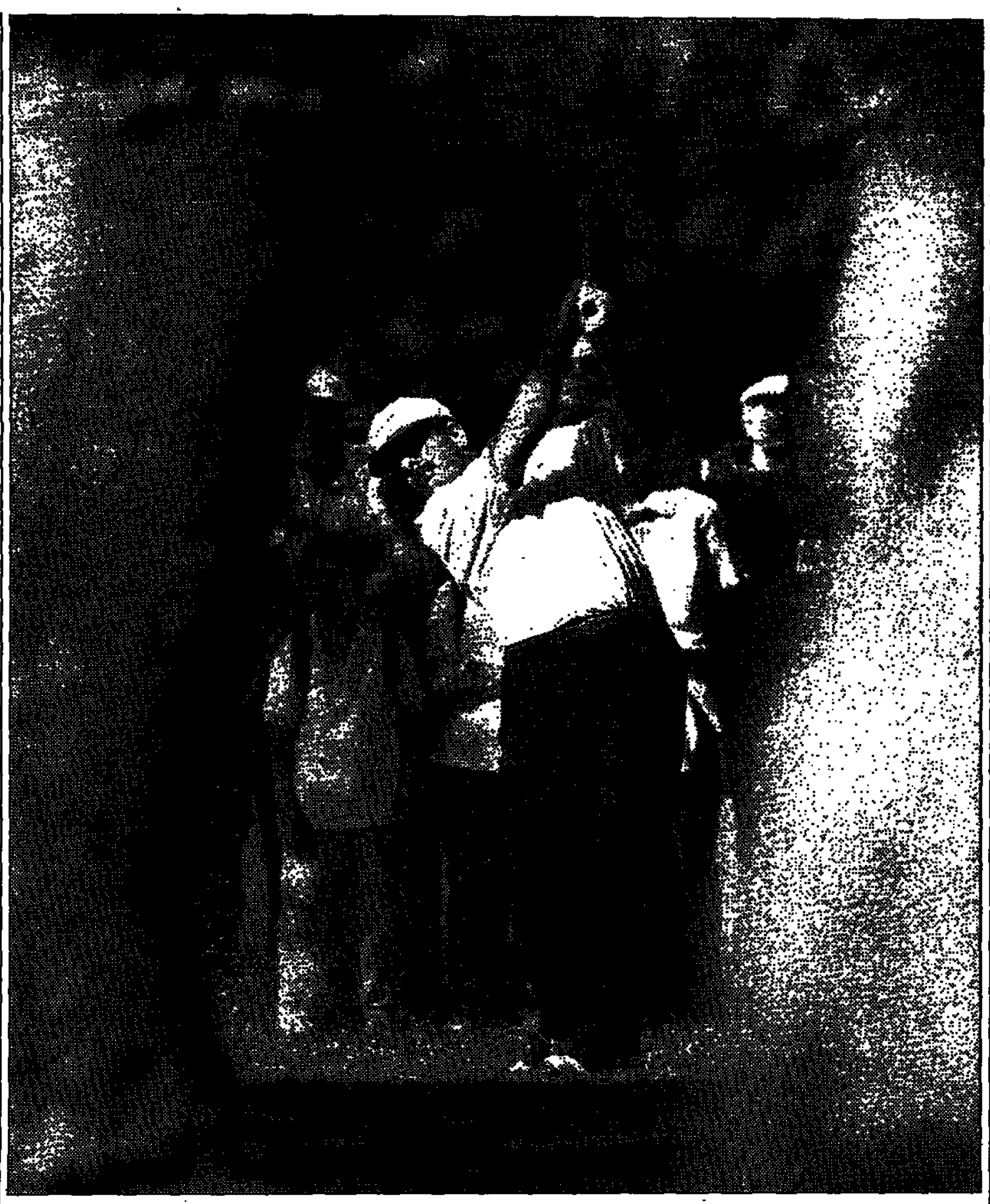
Montgomerie got the birdie he needed at the 12th, with a five-iron to eight feet, and the par that won him the Order at the 17th. His second was a poor, pushed shot and it left him in the rough, two feet below the ball, with a side-hill stance. "I had 82 yards to the front of the green, and it went 82 yards," said Montgomerie. "The only reason it did not spin back into the water was because it was hit from the rough. But you need a bit of fortune at this game and I got mine there."

Two others have won the Order three times in a row, Severiano Ballesteros and Peter Oosterhuis, the latter having gone on to make it four in succession. Montgomerie won £835,051; Torrance £755,706 and Langer £655,854. Cejka finished sixth in the Order with £308,114.

Conditions at the long 17th, plus the fact that the pin was positioned only four yards on the green, meant that the well-struck shot, full of spin, such as the professionals love to hit, was extremely dangerous and likely to spin right off the green and into the lake.

There were 52 of Europe's finest on the course yesterday and Miguel Angel Jimenez, who had an albatross two on the hole last year, took nine yesterday, with repeated visits to the water. There were three eights and 10 sevens, which meant that over 25 per cent of one of the finest fields of the year could not get within two shots of the par.

"This Ballesteros," said Sandy Lyle of Seve, who designed the hole, "is he a professional golfer?"



Tall order . . . Torrance, who produced the best round of the day, plays from the trees at the 9th PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE MUNDAY

Drugs in sport

BAF brush-off for McMaster drugs allegation

John Duncan

THE British Athletic Federation will not be holding an inquiry into allegations made in a Sunday newspaper that one of its former team doctors supplied drugs to the Scottish athlete Drew McMaster in the late Seventies. The matter will, however, be raised at the next management meeting of the BAF.

The BAF's spokesman Tony Ward said yesterday that in 1987 it had held a full inquiry into the use of drugs and since then had tightened up testing and punishment.

"We do not comment on specific allegations because they invoke trial by media," he said. "But we are disappointed so much space is given to allegations that are not relevant to what is happening today.

"Since the independent report, we introduced some of the toughest testing and punishment measures in sport. Figures show that over 99 per cent of British athletes are not using performance-enhancing drugs."

Neither the doctor accused of giving McMaster steroids, Dr Jimmy Ledingham, nor the coach accused of having subsequently acquiesced in drug-taking by British athletes, Frank Dick, is currently employed by the BAF.

Dick reacted furiously to the allegations that he turned a blind eye to drug-taking by top athletes. "There is no truth in the allegations made about my involvement in or acquiescence in the use of drugs by athletes," he said. "I have throughout my career, when asked, educated athletes as to how these drugs worked and the damage they do, whilst also forcefully pointing out that taking such drugs is cheating." He is taking legal action.

McMaster, aged 38, admitted in the report that he took steroids before and after winning the gold medal in the 4 x 100 metres relay at the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton.

The technology of drugs cheating and detection has become more sophisticated since then. Testing for steroids was only begun in earnest at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, and was for many years only "in competition". Cheats could avoid detection merely by coming off the banned drugs a fortnight before competitions and drinking large quantities of water.

Now athletes can, in theory, be tested at any time in any place. However, new forms of drug cheating, including the use of human growth hormone, for which there is no recognised international tests, have been developed.

Sport in brief

Boxing

Billy Schwer's successful defence of his Commonwealth lightweight title makes the Briton the official leading contender for the European crown held by the Frenchman Angel Mona. Schwer stopped the South African Ditau Molefyane in the eighth round at the Albert Hall on Saturday.

On the same bill Wales's Joe Calzaghe halted Steve Wilson in the eighth round to claim the British super-middleweight title.

Ross Hale, the British light-welterweight champion, needed only a round and a half to retain his title in his home town of Bristol against Charlie Kane.

Tennis

Britain's Tim Henman produced the finest display of his career to win the ATP Challenger in Seoul yesterday. The 21-year-old British No. 4 from Oxford beat Vincenzo Santopadre of Italy 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. Henman and Andrew Richardson had beaten Santopadre and his fellow Italian Filippo Messori 6-2, 6-1 in the doubles final the previous day.

Cricket

Monsoon rains washed out the fifth and final day of the second Test between India and New Zealand in Madras. The match, in which only six hours of play was possible, was declared a draw. India lead the three-match series 1-0.

Scottish soccer round-up

Rangers hoping for change in their fortunes

Patrick Glenn

OCTOBER has proved a cruel month for a Rangers team whose tribulations are not certain to judder to a merciful halt on the first day of November.

On Wednesday, the dawning of the new month, Juventus appear at Ibrox Park in the hope of inflicting further punishment on the Glasgow side in Group C of the Champions' League.

The past two weeks have seen Rangers thrashed 4-1 in Turin, defeated 2-1 by Aberdeen in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final and then dropping two league points in Saturday's 2-2 draw with Raith Rovers at Stark's Park. When Lennon gave the home side the lead soon after the interval it seemed the unthinkable could happen, but Gough and Petric headed the champions in front before Cameron equalised.

Rangers have personnel problems for Wednesday. McLaren, Cleland and Durie are suspended and Landrup, Ferguson and Robertson are injured. Moore, the young central defender who is a likely deputy for McLaren, was taken off with an ankle injury on Saturday and may also be a cause for concern.

Celtic too have fitness worries before facing Paris St Germain in the Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday: Thom, Collins and O'Donnell are receiving treatment. But the manner of the Parkhead side's 2-0 victory over Aberdeen — without the injured trio — was so encouraging that it is unlikely that the manager Tommy Burns will be greatly concerned.

Goals from McLaughlin and Van Hooijdonk, the latter a penalty, on either side of the interval were, if anything, a little less than the home side deserved.

● Juventus suffered a humiliating 4-0 defeat at the hands of Lazio in Rome yesterday. Two goals from Pierluigi Casiraghi and one each from Giuseppe Signori and Roberto Rambaudi sealed their second reverse in less than a week after last Wednesday's Italian Cup exit at Atalanta.

Weekend results

Soccer

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Tottenham (1) 1 Armstrong 21 — Newcastle (0) 1 Ginola 47 — 32,279

Aston Villa 1, Everton 0; Blackburn 3, Chelsea 0; Leeds 3, Coventry 1; Liverpool 6, Man C 0; Man Utd 2, Middlesbrough 0; QPR 1, Nottm Forest 1; Sheff Wed 0, West Ham 1; Wimbledon 1, Southampton 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	11	9	1	1	27	9	28
Man Utd	11	8	2	1	23	11	26
Liverpool	11	7	2	2	24	8	23
Arsenal	10	6	3	1	15	5	21
Nottm Forest	11	5	6	0	19	12	21
Middlesbrough	11	6	3	2	11	6	21
Aston Villa	11	6	2	3	13	8	20
Leeds	11	6	2	3	17	13	20
Tottenham	11	4	4	3	16	14	16
Chelsea	11	4	3	4	11	14	15
Blackburn	11	4	2	5	16	15	14
West Ham	11	3	4	4	10	12	13
Sheff Wed	11	3	2	6	9	13	11
QPR	11	3	1	7	10	17	10
Wimbledon	11	3	1	7	15	25	10
Everton	11	2	3	6	12	18	9
Southampton	11	2	3	6	11	20	9
Coventry	11	1	4	6	8	21	7
Bolton	10	1	2	7	11	22	5
Man City	11	0	2	9	3	21	2

Leading goalscorers (total): **16** Ferdinand (Newcastle). **15** Shearer (Blackburn). **12** Fowler (Liverpool).

POOLS CHECK: Score draw (total 9): 6, 17, 19, 28, 31, 32, 34, 35, 45. No-score draw (5): 14, 33, 39, 50, 57.

FA VASE: First round: Flixton 3, Glossop NE 0; Crook Tn 2, Ashfield Utd 0; Oakham Utd 3, Washington 2; Eastwood Hanley 2, Shotton Comrades 0; Bedlington Terriers 4, Kidsgrove Ath 0; Ponteland Utd 2, Thackley 5; Hatfield Main 0, Selby Tn 2; Esh Winning 2, Winterton Rngrs 5; Easington Colliery 2, Wythenshawe Amateur 1; Whickham 3, Marske Utd 2; Newcastle Tn 3, Burscough 1; Ashington 0, Nth Ferriby Utd 3; Brigg Tn 2, Stocksbridge Pk Steels 1; Oldham Tn 6, Annfield Plain 1; Ossett Tn 7, Willington 3; Yorkshire Amateur 2, Cheadle Tn 0; Trafford 2, St Helens Tn 0; Brandon Utd 0, Ossett Alb 2; Salford C 0, Nuthall 1; Clitheroe 5, Bootle 1; Nettleham 2, Nantwich Tn 0; South Shields 1, Maine Road 6; Hinckley Ath 3, Wellingborough Tn 2; Pelsall Villa 3, Halesowen Harr 1; Anstey Nomads 2, Oldbury Utd 1; Cadby Tn 2, Boldmere St Michaels 5; West Midlands Police 3, Pershore Tn 4; Bloxwich Tn 1, St Andrews 0; Rushall Olympic 2, Cogenhoe Utd 1; Boston Tn 2, Shepshed Dynamo 6; Blakenall 1, Lye Tn 4; Brackley Tn 3, Banbury Utd 0; Barwell 1, Dunkirk 1; Hucknall Tn 2, Shirnal Tn 1; Darleston 1, Walsall Wood 1; Willenhall Tn 1, Long Buckby 0; Harlow Tn 2, Berkingside 1; Wroxham 2, Lowestoft Tn 0; Brightlingsea Utd 0, Newmarket Tn 1; Clapton 1, Leighton Tn 2; Edgware Tn 4, Wingate & Finchley 1; Northwood 3, Stotfold 0; St Neots Tn 1, Tilbury 4; Harwich & Parkeston 2, Warboys Tn 0; Sawbridgeworth Tn 1, Concord Rngrs 0; Chalfont St Peter 3, Maldon Tn 1; Royston Tn 1, Cheshunt 2; Hadleigh Utd 4, Mirrlees Blackstone 2; Bourne Tn 0, Bedford Tn 1; Langford 3, Hoddesdon Tn 1; Wootton BC 2, Flackwell Hth 2; Romford 2, Fakenham Tn 4; Halstead Tn 1, Wisbech Tn 2; Swaffham Tn 2, Brentwood 3; Gorleston 4, Biggleswade Tn 0; Collier Row 8, Clacton Tn 1; Spalding Utd 1, Ely C 3; Ware 4, Basildon Utd 2; Stowmarket Tn 2, Woodbridge Tn 2; Aveley 2, Hertford Tn 1; Thamesmead Tn 1, Ashford Tn (Middx) 0; Slade Green 5, Saltdean Utd 1; Burgess Hill Tn 2, Bournemouth 1; Shoreham 1, Gosport Bor 0; Lymington 3, Croydon 0; Cranleigh 3, Pepperd 2; Banstead Ath 1, Chatham Tn 0; Andover 1, Furness 4; Corinthian 2, Totton 1; Whitstable 5, Littlehampton Tn 1; Whitstable Tn 4, Ryde 0; Netherne 3, Bracknell Tn 4; Stamco 1, Godalming & Guildford 2; Chichester C 2, Deal Tn 0; Horsham YMCA 1, Wick 3; Pagham 1, Windsor & Eton 2; Horsham 6, Hassocks 3; West Wickham 0, Herne Bay 3; Tunbridge Wells 1, Hungerford Tn 6; Eastleigh 2, Hailsham Tn 1; Peacehaven & Telscombe 4, North Leigh 0; Falmouth Tn 3, Liskeard Ath 0; Paulton Rvrs 2, Shortwood Utd 0; Backwell Utd 1, Bridport 2; Mangotsfield Utd 3, Truro C 0; Swindon Supermarine 1, Keynsham Tn 2; Bideford 2, Tiverton Tn 1; Chard Tn 2, Saltash Utd 1; Elmore 1, Chippenham Tn 4; Devizes Tn 0, Bemerton Hth Harlequins 3; Torpoint Ath 3, Odd Down 1; Warminster Tn 3, Barnstaple Tn 2; Wimborne Tn 2, Old Georgians 1; Bridgwater Tn 1, Bishop Sutton 2; Torrington 3, Sherborne Tn 0.

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Altrincham 2, Dover 2; Bath 0, Gateshead 1; Dag & Red 4, Kidderminster 2; Farnborough 0, Halifax 0; Hednesford 2, Southport 1; Macclesfield 2, Welling 1; Morecambe 4, Bromsgrove 1; Runcorn 4, Kettering 2; Stalybridge 2, Woking 4; Stevenage 5, Northwich 1; Telford 2, Slough 0. **Leading standings:** 1, Woking (P15, Pts30); 2, Kidderminster (16-30); 3, Macclesfield (16-30)

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE

First Division

Luton (0) 0 — Charlton (1) 1 Nelson 16 — 6,270

Norwich (1) 1 Johnson 10 — Tranmere (0) 1 Moore 46 — 15,513

Port Vale (0) 1 Porter 80 (pen) — Birmingham (1) 2 Tait 7, Claridge 71 — 8,875

Derby 2, Oldham 1; Grimsby 1, Stoke 0; Leicester 2, C Palace 3; Millwall 2, West Brom 1; Portsmouth 4, Watford 2; Reading 1, Ipswich 4; Southend 0, Huddersfield 0; Sunderland 2, Barnsley 1; Wolverhampton 1, Sheff Utd 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millwall	14	8	4	2	17	11	28
Birmingham	14	7	4	3	24	14	25
Leicester	14	7	4	3	24	18	25
West Brom	14	7	3	4	20	15	24
Sunderland	14	6	6	2	17	13	24
Tranmere	13	5	6	2	21	13	21
Norwich	14	5	6	3	19	15	21
Charlton	14	5	6	3	18	13	21
Oldham	14	5	5	4	18	15	20
Grimsby	14	5	5	4	14	15	20
Ipswich	14	5	4	5	24	21	19
Barnsley	14	5	4	5	21	27	19
Huddersfield	14	5	3	6	17	20	18
Derby	14	4	6	4	16	18	18
Southend	14	5	3	6	12	18	18
Wolverhampton	14	4	5	5	18	19	17
Crystal Palace	13	4	5	4	16	17	17
Reading	14	3	6	5	18	22	15
Stoke	14	3	6	5	15	19	15
Watford	14	3	5	6	18	21	14
Portsmouth	14	3	4	7	19	23	13
Luton	14	3	3	8	10	17	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	2	9	17	26	11
Port Vale	14	2	5	7	12	18	11

Leading goalscorers (total): **10** Goodman (Wolverhampton). **9** Aldridge (Tranmere); Bowyer (Charlton).

Second Division: Blackpool 1, Oxford Utd 1; Bournemouth 2, Carlisle 0; Bradford C 2, Burnley 2; Brighton 2, Bristol Rvrs 0; Bristol C 0, Walsall 2; Crewe 3, Brentford 1; Notts Co 1, Swindon 3; Peterborough 6, York 1; Shrewsbury 3, Rotherham 1; Stockport 0, Chesterfield 1; Wrexham 1, Swansea 0; Wycombe 2, Hull 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	14	11	2	1	31	11	35
Crewe	13	8	3	2	27	14	27
Notts County	14	7	4	3	18	12	25
Chesterfield	14	7	3	4	20	15	24
Blackpool	14	7	3	4	19	14	24
Burnley	14	6	5	3	20	14	23
Wycombe	14	5	7	2	20	13	22
Bradford	14	6	3	5	21	23	21
Bournemouth	14	6	2	6	18	19	20
Wrexham	14	5	5	4	17	17	20
Bristol Rovers	14	6	2	6	18	21	20
Stockport	14	5	5	4	15	11	20
Oxford Utd	14	4	6	4	18	16	18
Rotherham	14	5	3	6	18	19	18
Peterborough	14	4	5	5	20	22	17
Walsall	14	4	4	6	18	15	16
Swansea	14	3	6	5	15	20	15
Brentford	14	4	3	7	12	16	15
Shrewsbury	14	4	2	8	18	25	14
York	14	4	2	8	14	23	14
Bristol City	13	3	5	5	11	16	14
Brighton	14	3	3	8	13	23	12
Carlisle	14	2	5	7	13	22	11
Hull	14	1	6	7	9	21	9

Leading goalscorers (total): **14** White (Notts Co). **11** Goater (Rotherham); Jones (Bournemouth); Barnes (York).

Third Division: Cardiff 1, Colchester 2; Darlington 2, Plymouth 0; Doncaster 2, Preston 2; Exeter 1, Lincoln 1; Fulham 0, Hereford 0; Hartlepool 1, Gillingham 1; L Orient 1, Wigan 1; Mansfield 1, Bury 5; Northampton 0, Barnet 2; Rochdale 3, Cambridge Utd 1; Scarborough 0, Chester 0; Torquay 1, Scunthorpe 8.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	14	8	4	2	22	6	28
Preston	14	6	7	1	31	16	25
Rochdale	14	7	4	3	28	14	25
Colchester	14	7	4	3	23	15	25
Chester	14	7	4	3	22	14	25
Plymouth	14	7	2	5	25	17	23
Darlington	14	5	6	3	18	12	21
Wigan	14	6	2	6	19	18	20
Leyton Orient	14	6	2	6	18	16	20
Cambridge Utd	14	5	4	5	22	24	19
Doncaster	14	5	4	5	13	19	19
Northampton	14	5	3	6	17	18	18
Exeter	14	4	6	4	16	19	18
Scunthorpe	14	4	5	5	21	16	17
Bury	14	4	5	5	18	25	17
Scarborough	14	4	5	5	15	17	17
Fulham	14	3	7	4	19	18	16
Hereford	14	4	4	6	19	19	16
Cardiff	14	4	4	6	16	16	16
Hartlepool	14	4	4	6	13	22	16
Mansfield	14	2	8	4	20	23	14
Barnet	14	3	5	6	14	22	14
Torquay	14	2	4	8	15	31	10
Lincoln	14	1	4	9	11	31	7

Leading goalscorers (total): **14** Dale (Cardiff). **11** Whitehall (Rochdale); Stant (Bury).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier: Bishop Auckland 1, Colwyn 0. **Saturday:** Accrington Stanley 2, Matlock 1; Bamber Bridge 0, Emley 1; Barrow 2, Hyde Utd 1; Boston Utd 1, Blyth Spartans 0; Buxton 1, Marine 3; Droylsden 1, Bishop Auckland 4; Guiseley 1, Winsford Utd 1; Knowsley 1, Frickley 2; Leek Tn 2, Chorley 0; Spennymoor 0, Colwyn Bay 0; Witton Alb 0, Gainsborough 2. **Leading standings:** 1, Boston (P19, Pts35); 2, Bamber Bridge (17-33); 3, Guiseley (16-30). **First:** Alfreton Tn 3, Ashton Utd 0; Atherton LR 2, Lancaster C 1; Curzon Ashton 4, Gt Harwood Tn 1; Farsley Celtic 0, Fleetwood 2; Gretna 0, Eastwood Tn 2; Harrogate Tn 1, Congleton Tn 1; Lincoln Utd 1, Warrington Tn 0; Netherfield 1, Leigh 0; Workington 6, Worksop Tn 2.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Celtic 2, Aberdeen 0; Falkirk 2, Hearts 0; Hibernian 2, Kilmarnock 0; Partick 1, Motherwell 0; Raith 2, Rangers 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	10	8	1	1	22	5	25
Celtic	10	6	3	1	16	8	21
Hibernian	10	5	4	1	18	12	19
Aberdeen	10	5	1	4	17	13	16
Raith	10	4	1	5	14	16	13
Motherwell	10	2	4	4	11	13	10
Partick	10	2	4	4	9	16	10
Falkirk	10	2	2	6	8	15	8
Kilmarnock	10	2	2	6	7	15	8
Hearts	10	2	2	6	14	23	8

Leading goalscorers (total): **8** Jackson (Hibernian); Booth (Aberdeen). **6** Cameron (Raith); Van Hooydonk (Celtic); McCoist (Rangers); Arnott (Motherwell); Craig (Partick); Dodds (Aberdeen); Thom (Celtic). **First Division:** Airdrie 2, Dundee 3; Clydebank 2, Hamilton 0; Dumbarton 0, Greenock Morton 2; Dundee Utd 3, Dunfermline 1; St Johnstone 0, St Mirren 0. **Leading standings:** 1, Dunfermline (P11, Pts24); 2, Dundee Utd (11-22); 3, Gr Morton (11-20). **Second Division:** Ayr 0, East Fife 1; Forfar 1, Clyde 0; Queen of South 4, Montrose 2; Stirling 1, Berwick 0; Stranraer 2, Stenhousemuir 1. **Leading standings:** 1, East Fife (P11, Pts25); 2, Berwick (11-22); 3, Forfar (11-18). **Third Division:** Albion 2, Alloa 1; Brechin 0, Caledonian T 0; Cowdenbeath 3, Queen's Pk 2; Livingston 0, Arbroath 1; Ross County 1, E Stirling 1. **Leading standings:** 1, Livingston (P11, Pts25); 2, Ross County (11-19); 3, Caledonian T (11-18).

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Aylesbury 2, Grays 2; Bishop's Stortford 0, Enfield 1; Boreham Wood 0, Kingstonian 0; Bromley 1, Yeovil 5; Carshalton 1, Hitchin 1; Dulwich 4, Worthing 1; Harrow Borough 3, Molesey 1; Hayes 0, Yeading 0; Purfleet 2, Hendon 3; St Albans 2, Chertsey Tn 0; Walton & Hersham 1, Sutton Utd 1. **Leading standings:** 1, Enfield (P15, Pts33); 2, Dulwich (11-26); 3, Carshalton (12-26). **First:** Barton Rvrs 1, Basingstoke Tn 2; Bognor Regis Tn 4, Billericay Tn 0; Chesham Utd 1, Aldershot Tn 6; Layton Pennant 0, Abingdon Tn 2; Maidenhead Utd 0, Berkhamsted Tn 2; Marlow 2, Uxbridge 3; Oxford C 2, Wokingham Tn 0; Thame Utd 1, Staines Tn 2; Tooting & Mitcham Utd 5, Barking 1; Wembley 0, Heybridge Swifts 3; Whyteleafe 8, Ruislip Manor 3. **Second:** Canvey Island 1, Hemel Hempstead 0; Leatherhead 0, Met Police 2. **Postponed:** Wivenhoe Tn v Newbury Tn. **Third:** Harefield Utd 1, Hornchurch 0; Tring Tn 1, Epsom & Ewell 1.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier Division: Cambridge C 2, Ilkeston Tn 2; Crawley Tn 0, Newport AFC 0; Dorchester 1, Chelmsford 1; Gloucester 0, Hastings 2; Gravesend & N 1, Burton 2; Halesowen 8, Atherstone 4; Merthyr 0, Rushden & D'monds 3; Salisbury 3, Cheltenham 3; Stafford 3, Gresley Rvrs 5; Sudbury Tn 3, Baldock Tn 1; VS Rugby 0, Worcester 0. **Leading standings:** 1, Rushden (P11, Pts26); 2, Worcester (14-26); 3, Newport (13-27). **Midland Division:** Buckingham Tn 2, Moor Green 0; Bury Tn 1, Sutton Coldfield 5; Corby Tn 1, Tamworth 0; Dudley Tn 2, Redditch Utd 2; Evesham Utd 3, Leicester Utd 0; Grantham Tn 1, R C Warwick 1; Nuneaton Borough 1, Kings Lynn 1; Paget Rngrs 1, Hinckley Tn 2; Solihull Borough 2, Bridgnorth Tn 2; Bilston Tn 0, Bedworth Utd 1. **Southern Division:** Ashford Tn 4, Cinderford Tn 0; Braintree Tn 2, Clevedon Tn 0; Fareham Tn 1, Weymouth 1; Fisher 93 3, Bashley 3; Forest Green Rvrs 3, Tonbridge Angels 0; Havant Tn 2, Margate 0; Sittingbourne 1, Waterlooville 2; Trowbridge Tn 6, Fleet Tn 0; Weston-s-Mare 7, Poole Tn 0; Witney Tn 1, Erith & Belvedere 1; Yate Tn 3, Newport (IoW) 0.

N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Division: Chadderton 0, Blackpool Rvrs 1; Mossley 3, Darwen 0; Prescot 1, Penrith 4; Rossendale Utd 0, Holker OB 2.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First Division: Consett 1, Ferryhill Ath 1; Durham C 5, Peterlee 0; Eppleton CW 0, Seaham RS 4; Murton 2, Tow Law Tn 2; Shildon 4, Guisborough Tn 1; Stockton 1, Billingham Syn 2; West Auckland 0, Dunston Federation 1; Whitby Tn 3, Chester Le Street 6.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier Division: Arnold Tn 0, Belper Tn 3; Glasshoughton Welfare 3, Denaby Utd 4; Goole Tn 1, Hallam 1; Maltby MW 0, Liversedge 1; Sheffield 3, Pickering Tn 3.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier: Brislington 3, Bristol MF 0; Taunton Tn 3, Frome Tn 1; Westbury Utd 0, Calne Tn 1.

S-E COUNTIES LEAGUE: First: Cambridge Utd 0, Norwich C 5; Gillingham 1, Southend Utd 2; Ipswich Tn 1, Arsenal 4; QPR 1, Portsmouth 2; Tottenham 4, L Orient 0; Watford 3, Millwall 1. **Cup: Second-round replays:** Chelsea 4, West Ham 0; Crystal Palace 4, Luton Tn 1; Swindon 1, Oxford Utd 3; Wimbledon 2, Charlton 0.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry Tn 2, Newtown 0; Briton Ferry 0, Flint Tn 2; Caersws 4, Porthmadog 1; Cemaes Bay 2, Aberystwyth 2; Conwy 2, Llanelli 0; Cwmbran 0, Bangor C 0; Holywell 1, Ton Pentre 1; Llansantffraid 1, Connah's Quay 2; Rhyl 1, Caernarfon Tn 5.

IRISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Shamrock Rvrs 2, Derry C 0; UCD 3, Athlone 0. **Saturday:** Galway 1, Bohemians 5; Bangor 1, Crusaders 2; Cliftonville 2, Glenavon 2; Glentoran 3, Ards 2; Portadown 3, Linfield 2; Shelbourne 0, Sligo 0. **First Division:** Ballyclare 1, Ballymena 3; Coleraine 8, Newry 0; Distillery 3, Omagh Tn 2; Larne 0, Carrick 1.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Antwerp 2, Waregem 0. **Saturday:** Ghent 3, Beveren 0; Cercle Brugge 3, Mechelen 2; Lierse 2, Club Brugge 2; Molenbeek 4, Seraing 0; Aalst 0, Sint-Truiden 0; Charleroi 1, Ekeren 1; Lommel 2, Harelbeke 0. **Leading standings:** 1, Club Brugge (P14, Pts28); 2, Lierse (14-28); 3, Anderlecht (14-27).

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Atalanta 0, Udinese 0; Cagliari 0, Roma 2; Fiorentina 3, Bari 2; Lazio 4, Juventus 0; Napoli 0, Cremonese 0; Padova 1, Sampdoria 1; Parma 3, Piacenza 2; Torino 1, Vicenza 0. **Leading standings:** 1, Parma (P8, Pts17); 2, Lazio (8-16); 3, Milan (7-16).

DUTCH LEAGUE: NEC Nijmegen 1, Feyenoord Rotterdam 3; Twente Enschede 2, Go Ahead Eagles Deventer 1; Vitesse Arnhem 5, Fortuna Sittard 1; Groningen 0, Utrecht 0; Volendam 1, Sparta Rotterdam 1. **Saturday:** PSV Eindhoven 2, Willem II Tilburg 0; Heerenveen 1, NAC Breda 1; Ajax Amsterdam 8, Roda JC Kerkrade 1; Graafschap Doetinchem 1, RKC Waalwijk 1. **Leading standings:** 1, Ajax Amsterdam (P12, Pts36); 2, PSV Eindhoven (12-31); 3, Heerenveen (12-22).

SPANISH LEAGUE: Salamanca 2, Betis 1; Real Sociedad 2, Rayo Vallecano 1; Racing Santander 0, Zaragoza 0; Atletico Madrid 1, Merida 1; Sporting Gijon 4, Valladolid 2; Espanyol 2, Celta 2. **Saturday:** Albacete 1, Real Madrid 1; Compostela 2, Barcelona 1; Sevilla 0, Deportivo Coruna 0.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Saturday: Tirsense 0, Belenenses 0; Guimaraes 3, Estrela Amadora 0; Farense 0, Porto 2. **Friday:** Benfica 3, Leca 1. **Leading standings:** 1, Porto (P9, Pts25); 2, Benfica (9-20); 3, Sporting (8-19).

GERMAN LEAGUE: Uerdingen 2, 1860 Munich 0. **Saturday:** Werder Bremen 1, St Pauli 1; Bayern Munich 5, VfB Stuttgart 3; Hamburg 1, Kaiserslautern 0; Fortuna Duesseldorf 1, Bayer Leverkusen 1; Schalke 1, Borussia Dortmund 2; Hansa Rostock 1, Eintracht Frankfurt 1. **Friday:** Cologne 0, Borussia Moenchengladbach 2; Karlsruher 1, Freiburg 1. **Leading standings:** 1, Bayern Munich (P11, Pts27); 2, Borussia Dortmund (11-24); 3, Borussia Moenchengladbach (11-22).

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS' CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Express 1, Orlando Pirates 1 (agg: 1-2); ASEC 5, Ismailia 1 (agg: 2-5).

AFRICAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Julius Berger 1, Maxaquene 0 (agg: 1-0).

Rugby League

THE HALIFAX CENTENARY WORLD CUP FINAL

England (4) **8, Australia** (10) **16. England: Try:** Newlove. **Goals:** Goulding 2. **Australia: Tries:** Brasher, Wishart. **Goals:** A Johns 4 (66,540).

Rugby Union

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: League One: Bath 52, Saracens 16; Gloucester 13, Harlequins 24; Leicester 43, Bristol 6; Orrell 32, Wasps 29; W Hartlepool 11, Sale 29.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	8	8	0	0	264	109	16
Leicester	8	7	0	1	186	75	14
Harlequins	8	6	0	2	188	148	12
Wasps	8	4	0	4	188	151	8
Sale	8	4	0	4	146	131	8
Orrell	8	4	0	4	126	150	8
Bristol	8	4	0	4	143	195	8
Saracens	8	2	0	6	113	231	4
Gloucester	8	1	0	7	116	198	2
W Hartlepool	8	0	0	8	116	192	0

Two: London Irish 32, Blackheath 5; London Scottish 28, Newcastle Gosforth 8; Moseley 27, Bedford 18; Nottingham 22, Wakefield 18; Waterloo 3, Northampton 69.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northampton	8	8	0	0	420	89	16
Ldn Scottish	8	7	1	0	182	95	15
Ldn Irish	8	6	0	2	277	162	12
Moseley	8	4	0	4	115	175	8
Blackheath	8	3	1	4	154	213	7
Waterloo	8	3	1	4	110	216	7
Bedford	8	2	1	5	158	255	5
Wakefield	8	2	0	6	124	157	4
Nottingham	8	2	0	6	120	184	4
Newcastle G	8	1	0	7	129	237	2

Three: Coventry 15, Rotherham 12; Harrogate 19, Richmond 48; Morley 20, Rosslyn Park 15; Otley 13, Rugby 12; Reading 22, Fylde 19. **Four:** Aspatria 20, Walsall 28; Havant 6, London Welsh 25; Liverpool St Helens 23, Exeter 22; Plymouth 11, Clifton 6; Redruth 39, Leeds 15. **League Fives: North:** Birmingham Solihull 19, Kendal 8; Broughton Pk 20, Sandal 24; Lichfield 11, Worcester 21; Preston G 0, Winnington Pk 23; Sheffield 17, Stoke 28; Wharfedale 19, Stourbridge 3. **South:** Barking 12, Berry Hill 8; Camberley 9, Lydney 15; Henley 13, Cheltenham 25; Met Police 8, High Wycombe 16; N Walsham 8, Weston-s-Mare 29; Tabard 17, Camborne 12.

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: First Division: Aberavon 11, Ebbw Vale 18; Bridgend 31, Swansea 16; Newbridge 30, Treorchy 28; Newport 21, Llanelli 8; Pontypridd 22, Neath 5.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pontypridd	8	7	0	1	282	125	24
Cardiff	8	7	0	1	275	128	24
Llanelli	7	5	0	2	228	89	21
Swansea	7	4	0	3	252	139	17
Bridgend	8	4	0	4	208	161	17
Neath	7	4	1	2	136	78	14
Newport	8	5	1	2	144	179	13
Newbridge	8	4	0	4	131	163	11
Ebbw Vale	8	3	0	5	132	221	6
Aberavon	8	1	0	7	131	302	5
Treorchy	7	0	0	7	117	257	2
Abertillery	8	1	0	7	99	294	2

Second Division: Caerphilly 20, Llanharan 17; Dunvant 11, Cross Keys 3; Llandovery 21, Abercynon 14; Pontypool 27, Bonymaen 16; S Wales Police 35, Ystradgynlais 21; Tenby Utd 7, Maesteg 15.

SRU TENNENTS CHAMPIONSHIP: Premier League: First Division: Edinburgh Acads 13, Stirling County 16; Gala 18, Boroughmuir 26; Hawick 10, Melrose 9; Watsonians 14, Heriots FP 20.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boroughmuir	10	7	1	2	220	161	15
Melrose	10	6	0	4	237	138	12
Stirling Co	10	6	0	4	193	186	12
Watsonians	10	5	1	4	258	189	11
Hawick	10	5	0	5	178	194	10
Edinburgh A	10	4	1	5	179	183	9
Heriots FP	10	4	0	6	190	265	8
Gala	10	1	1	8	138	285	3

Second Division: Dundee HSFP 16, Currie 22; Kelso 30, Selkirk 11; Stewarts Mel FP 20, Jed-Forest 12; W of Scotland 9, GHK 10. **Third Division:** Glasgow Acads 33, Grangemouth 10; Kirkcaldy 47, Corstorphine 10; Musselburgh 21, Preston Lodge 8; Peebles 15, Biggar 13. **Fourth Division:** Gordonians 33, Glasgow Southern 16, Haddington 27, Edinburgh Wndrs 30; Kilmarnock 18, Ayr 8; Langholm 16, Wigtownshire 6.

CLUB: Basingstoke 43, Askeans 3.

TEST MATCH: (Bologna). Italy 6, New Zealand 70.

TOUR MATCH: Cardiff 22, Fiji 21.

Golf

VOLVO MASTERS (Valderrama): **Final scores** (GB/Ire unless stated): **282** A Cejka (Ger) 74, 66, 72, 70. **284** C Montgomerie 71, 72, 69, 72. **285** S Torrance 73, 71, 73, 68; D Gilford 74, 68, 71, 72. **286** J Rivero (Sp) 75, 68, 70, 73; B Langer (Ger) 74, 68, 71, 73; I Woosnam 70, 71, 71, 74; P-U Johansson (Swe) 75, 71, 66, 74; A Forsbrand (Swe) 68, 70, 73, 75. **287** H Clark 73, 70, 73, 71; P Eales 71, 71, 74, 71. **288** P Baker 77, 70, 70, 71; C Rocca (It) 74, 70, 71, 73; F Nobilo (NZ) 76, 70, 69, 73; J Parnevik (Swe) 74, 70, 70, 74. **289** T Johnstone (Zim) 77, 71, 71, 70; M A Jimenez (Sp) 71, 73, 71, 74; M James 74, 73, 68, 74. **290** A Coltart 75, 72, 71, 72; S Luna (Sp) 73, 74, 71, 72; S Lyle 72, 71, 72, 75; J-L Guepy (Fr) 72, 72, 71, 75. **291** J Coceres (Arg) 69, 72, 78, 72. **293** J Spence 73, 76, 72, 72; P O'Malley (Aus) 75, 70, 75, 73; G Turner (NZ) 78, 72, 70, 73; M Lanner (Swe) 74, 74, 72, 73.

VOLVO EUROPEAN TOUR ORDER OF MERIT: Leading final places (after addition of bonus pool money; figure in brackets indicates tournaments played): 1, C Montgomerie (Scot) (20) £835,051.40; 2, S Torrance (Scot) (26) £755,706.26; 3, B Langer (Ger) (15) £655,854.17; 4, C Rocca (It) (24) £516,320.29; 5, M Campbell (NZ) (21) £400,977.33; 6, A Cejka (Ger) (23) £308,114.99.

Tennis

ESSEN OPEN: Final: T Muster (Aut) bt M Washington (US) 7-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4

Badminton

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE OPEN (Mansfield): **Finals: Men's singles:** D Hall bt P Bush 15-10, 15-12. **Doubles:** J Anderson/I Pearson bt N Cottrill/J Quinn 11-8, 11-3. **Women's singles:** J Mann bt A Humby 11-2, 12-2. **Doubles:** E Chaffin/S Hardaker bt N Beck/J Davies 15-10, 15-9. **Mixed doubles:** J Quinn/S Hardaker bt N Robertson/G Emms 17-15, 10-15, 17-15.

Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester 93, Thames Valley 90; Hemel 92, Chester 93.

7UP TROPHY: Worthing 102, Birmingham 88.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Seniors: Men: Edinburgh 67, Paisley 59; C of Aberdeen 94, Bruins 72; Livingston 88, Strathkelvin 54; Glasgow C 106, Edzell 73. **Women:** Livingston 63, Glasgow C 47; Bo'ness 95, C of Aberdeen 55; Polonia 67, Beefeater 61; Beefeater 65, Boroughmuir 56.

Boxing

PROFESSIONAL BILL (Royal Albert Hall): **Light-welterweight:** Paul Knights (Redhill) bt Tony Swift (Birmingham) pts. **Welterweight:** Allan Gray (Putney) bt John O'Johnson (Notts) pts. **PROFESSIONAL SHOW** (Bristol): **Commonwealth Lightweight title:** Billy Schwer (Luton, hldr) bt Ditau Molefyane (SA) ko 8. **British and Commonwealth Light-welterweight title:** Ross Hale (Bristol, hldr) bt Charlie Kane (Glasgow) ko 2. **Vacant British Super-middleweight title:** Joe Calzaghe (Newbridge) bt Steve Wilson (Scot) rsf 8. **Super-featherweight:** Michael Herman (Birmingham) bt Mark Anthony-Brown (Jam) pts. **Lightweight:** Colin Dunne (Holloway) bt Chris Clarkson (Hull) rsf 4. **Light-welterweight:** Tom Welsh (Holyhead) bt Adrian Chase (St Albans) rsf 2. **Georgie Smith** (Basildon) bt Kevin McKillan (Manchester) ko 2. **Middleweight:** Glenn Catley (Bristol) bt Carlos Christie (Birmingham) pts. **Super-middleweight:** Mark Delaney (West Ham) bt Hunter Clay (Nig) rsf 3. **Cruiserweight:** Dennis Andries (London) bt Art Pendergrass (US) pts.

Chess

CREDIT SUISSE (Zurich): **Sixth round standings:** V Ivanchuk (Ukr) 4 out of 5; V Kramnik (Rus) 3½/5; J Ehlvest (Est) 3/5; B Gulko (US), N Short (Eng), A Yusupov (Ger) 3/6; V Korchnoi (Switz) 3½/5; G Kasparov (Rus) 2½/3; J Timman (Neth) 2/5; R Vaganian (Arm) 2/6; J Lautier (Fr) 1½/5. Kasparov has drawn five and lost to Ivanchuk.

Cricket

TOUR MATCH (Perth): **Second day:** Western Australia 402-5 dec (M Hussey 146, B Hogg 101no) and 34-1. Pakistan 184 (S Elahi 54, M Khan 56). Western Australia lead by 272 runs.

Cross Country

SCOTTISH RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS (Prestonpans, E Lothian): **Men 4x2.5mls** 1, Leslie Deans RC 45min 10sec; 2, Shettleston 45.26; 3, Cambuslang 45.27; 4, Dundee Hawkhill 46.12; 5, Clydesdale 46.18; 6, Kilbarchan 46.33. **Women 3x2.5mls** Edinburgh Woollen Mill 41.56; 2, Aberdeen 42.23; 3, C of Glasgow 42.30.

Hockey

AZLAN SHAH TOURNAMENT (Kuala Lumpur): Malaysia 3, Germany 3; India 2, New Zealand 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First Division: Barford T 5, Canterbury 2; Bournville 1, Guildford 7; Cannock 8, Hull 0; Havant 4, East Grinstead 1; Hounslow 2, Stourport 1; Southgate 7, St Albans 0; Surbiton 3, Old Loughtonians 3; Teddington 2, Indian Gym 2. **Saturday:** Reading 8, Trojans 1. **Standings:** 1 Reading 12; 2 Guildford 10; 3 Old Loughtonians 10. **Second Division:** Beeston 2, Glos City 1; Blueharts 6, Oxford Univ 3; Bromley 5, City of Portsmouth 2; Crostyx 1, Harleston M 0; Firebrands 1, Doncaster 2; Hampstead 1, Richmond 0; Olton 0, Isca 2; Sheffield 1, Slough 1. **Saturday:** Brooklands 2, Edgbaston 3. **Standings:** 1 Beeston 12; 2 Bluharts 10; 3 Crostyx 9.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Inverleith 1, Menzieshill 3; Torbrex W 4, Grange 8; TR Gordonians 4, Clydesdale 1; Uddingston 1, Kelburne 10.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grange	7	5	0	2	23	13	15
Western	7	4	1	2	29	15	13
Kelburne	7	4	1	2	26	18	13
Gordonians	7	4	1	2	19	12	13
Torbrex W	7	4	0	3	35	13	12
Menzieshill	7	3	3	1	24	12	12
Edinburgh	7	3	0	4	20	22	9
Inverleith	7	2	1	4	13	20	7
Clydesdale	7	1	3	3	11	23	6
Uddingston	7	0	0	7	4	36	0

HA CUP: Second round: Ashford (Mx) 2, Marlow 1; Blackheath 1, Ramgarhia (Mx) 2; Bloxwich 5, Mansfield 0; Bournemouth 9, Leominster 0; Chesterfield 0, Harborne 3; Clacton 0, Redbridge 2; Colchester 1, Chelmsford 0; Fareham 0, Woking 2; Formby 5, Neston 2; Glaxo 1, Warrington 3; Khalsa 6, Belper 2; Long Sutton 0, Dereham 4; Luton T 0, Ipswich 1; Maidenhead 2, Gore Court 1; Norton 2, Bowdon 1; Nottingham 3, Bath Bucs 2; Old Kingstonians 2, Oxford Hawks 5; Old Midwhitgiftians 2, Chichester 2 (aet, 5-6pens); Plymouth 0, WSM 1; Robinsons 5, Guernsey 2; Shef Bankers 3, Blackburn 2; Shrewsbury 2, Coalville 0; Timperley 5, B Stortford 3; Tulse Hill 1, Winchester 2 (aet); Tunbridge Wells 3, Bradfield Coll 1; Wakefield 1, Harrogate 3; Wimbledon 4, Basingstoke 2 (aet); Wokingham 1, Lewes 4.

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Bury 2, Chelmsford 1; Cambs C 1, B Stortford 2; Cambs Univ 2, Bedford 0; Peterboro 2, Ipswich 3, Redbridge 1, Colchester 2. **Midlands:** Bridgnorth 1, J Player 2; Hampton 2, Belper 0; Harborne 0, Nottingham 0; Khalsa 1, N Notts 0; Loughboro St 4, Bloxwich 1. **North:** Halifax 0s, Warrington 2; Neston 4, Harrogate 3; Norton 3, Formby 2; Shef. Bankers 1, Ben Rhydding 2; Timperley 4, Southport 1. **South:** Anchorians 2, Bournemouth 0; Chichester 2, High Wycombe 1; Fareham 1, Beckenham 1; Gore Court 3, Maidenhead 2; Newbury 6, Walcountians 2; Old Kingstonians 0, Winchester 3; Oxford Hawks 1, Lewes 0; Spencer 2, Ashford 3; Woking 0, Wimbledon 1. Wokingham 3, Lions 0. **West:** Bristol Univ 1, Bath Bucs 0; Exeter Univ 0, Swansea 2; Plymouth 0, WSM 1; Robinsons 2, Whitchurch 1; Taunton V 2, Cheltenham 1.

WOMENS INTERNATIONALS (Cardiff): Wales 4 (Y Williams, Merrett, Walton, Lloyd), Czech Republic 0. Wales U21 0, Czech Republic 0.

WOMENS CLUBS: Leicester 2, Bedans 0. **Saturday:** Aldridge 1, Exmouth 2. Bedans 1, Loughboro Stud. 3; Hampton 2, West Witney 3; Leicester 2, Bluehearts 3; Old Loughtonians 1, Canterbury 2; Peveril 3, Don Valley 1; Wimbledon 1, Ealing 0; Woking 1, City of Portsmouth 1.

Ice Hockey

BENSON & HEDGES CUP SEMI-FINAL: First leg: Fife 5, Sheffield 3.

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Basingstoke 6, Nottingham 5; Slough 7, Humberside 9. **First Division:** Billingham 11, Peterborough 7; Blackburn 14, Paisley 8; Bracknell 11, Guildford 7; Chelmsford 9, Murrayfield 4; Dumfries 3, Manchester 6; Medway 8, Solihull 6; Swindon 5, Telford 7.

NHL: Florida 4, Ottawa 1; Dallas 4, San Jose 3; Boston 3, Hartford 0; Philadelphia 5, NY Islanders 5 (ot); Montreal 5, Chicago 3; Pittsburgh 5, New Jersey 3, Washington 4, Tampa Bay 2; Los Angeles 2, Toronto 2 (ot); Winnipeg 4, Vancouver 1; Hartford 1, Montreal 4; St Louis 4, Anaheim 2; Colorado 6, Buffalo 4; Calgary 0, Detroit 3; Edmonton 7, Winnipeg 5.

Motor Racing

JAPANESE GRAND PRIX (Suzuka): 1, M Schumacher (Ger) Benetton; 2, M Hakkinen (Fin) McLaren; 3, J Herbert (GB) Benetton; 4, E Irvine (GB) Jordan; 5, O Panis (Fr) Ligier; 6, M Salo (Fin) Tyrrell; 7, M Blundell (GB) McLaren; 8, H Frentzen (Ger) Sauber; 9, L Badoer (It) Minardi; 10, K Wendlinger (Aut) Sauber; 11, P Lamy (Por) Minardi; 12, T Inoue (Japan) Footwork. **Did not finish** (not classified): 13, D Hill (GB) Williams; 14, D Coulthard (GB) Williams; 15, P Diniz (Br) Forti; 16, J Alesi (Fr) Ferrari 24; 17, A Montermini (It) Pacific; 18, G Berger (Aut) Ferrari; 19, R Barrichello (Br) Jordan; 20, U Katayama (Japan) Tyrrell; 21, B Gachot (Fr) Pacific; 22, R Moreno (Br) Forti. **World Drivers' championship standings:** 1, Schumacher 102pts; 2, Hill 59; 3, Coulthard 49; 4, Herbert 45; 5, Alesi 42; 6, Berger 31; 7, Hakkinen 17; 8, Frentzen 15; 9, Barrichello 11; 10=, Blundell, Panis, Irvine 10; 13, Brundle 7; 14=, J-C Boullion (Fr), Salo 5; 16=, Morbidelli, A Suzuki (Japan) 1. **Constructors' championship standings:** 1, Benetton 137 pts; 2, Williams 102; 3, Ferrari 73; 4, McLaren 27; 5, Jordan 21; 6=, Sauber, Ligier 18; 8, Tyrrell 3, 9 Footwork 1.

Motorcycling

WORLD SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP (Phillip Isl, Aus): **Twelfth round: First race:** 1, T Corser (Aus) Ducati; 2, A Slight (NZ) Honda; 3, S Crafar (NZ) Honda; 4, C Fogarty (GB) Ducati; 5, J Reynolds (GB) Kawasaki; 6, P-F Chili (It) Ducati. **Second race:** 1, A Gobert (Aus) Kawasaki; 2, Fogarty; 3, Corser; 4, Slight; 5, Crafar; 6, M Hale (US) Ducati. **Final standings:** 1, Fogarty 478pts; 2, Corser 339; 3, Slight 323.

Snooker

SKODA GRAND PRIX (Sunderland): **Semi-final:** S Hendry (Scot) bt S James (Eng) 9-5. **Final** (after first session): S Hendry (Sco) leads J Higgins (Sco) 5-3.

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated)

Soccer

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Bolton v Arsenal (8.0).

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE: Third Division: Doncaster v Cambridge Utd

FA CUP: Fourth-round qualifying, second replays: Gravesend & N v Marlow (7.45); Kettering v Bromsgrove (7.45).

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Dr Martens Cup: First round, second leg: Chelmsford C v Gravesend & Northfleet; Worcester C v Halesowen Tn.

N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Division: Clitheroe v Kidsgrove Ath.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First Division: Newcastle v Wolverhampton (7.0); Oldham v Everton (7.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Bristol Rvrs v West Ham; Chelsea v C Palace (7.0); Millwall v Watford (7.0); Swindon v QPR (2.0); Tottenham v Portsmouth. **League Cup:** Cheltenham v Cardiff.

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: Southend Utd v Fulham (7.45); Welling v L Orient.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE CUP: Final, first leg: Sligo Rvrs v Shelbourne (3.0)

England's world caves in, page 12

Schumacher equals record, page 13

Keane adds edge to Robson return, page 14

Money race goes to Montgomerie, page 15

*Sports*Guardian

Premiership: Tottenham Hotspur 1, Newcastle United 1

Ferdinand fails as Newcastle gallop falters

David Lacey

NOW Newcastle United are watchable but catchable. Some of their football in the second half at White Hart Lane yesterday was inspired but it brought Kevin Keegan's team nothing more than their season's first draw.

The result leaves Newcastle two points ahead of Manchester United at the top of the Premiership with a stiff November coming up. Before yesterday's game eight of their 10 opponents had come from the lower end of the table; now they face Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers in rapid succession with Aston Villa and Leeds to follow.

Tottenham, using Fox against his recent colleagues but still without Anderton — who sees a specialist today and is likely to have a groin operation that could keep him out until Christmas — deserved their point. At half-time, in fact, they appeared the likelier winners.

The same October day a year ago had brought Newcastle's first league defeat and marked the beginning of the end of their championship ambitions. The way they went about rescuing yesterday's match showed just why this season's challenge is likely to endure.

Clark having been forced out with an Achilles tendon injury, Keegan started the game with Beardsley withdrawn to midfield, Ginola supporting Ferdinand through the middle and Sellars uncomfortably tucked in on the left.

Although Gillespie had the beating of Wilson on the right flank, Newcastle looked uncharacteristically cramped playing this way. With his team a goal down Keegan went back to basics for the second half, reuniting Beardsley with Ferdinand, restoring Ginola to the left wing and releasing Sellars's creative urges in central midfield.

Had Ferdinand's prolific run of goals extended to a ninth successive game Newcastle would probably have won with something to spare. Ferdinand had an abundance of chances but came no closer to finding the net than the moment when his flying header glanced off the top of the Tottenham bar on the quarter-hour.

Nine minutes from the end, with the score 1-1, Gillespie's cross to the far post rounded off an imperious passing movement by Newcastle, leaving Ferdinand to win them the match with a nod of the head. The nod was true but somehow Walker kept the ball out.

Even then Ferdinand should have brought his team their 13th victory in 14 matches. In stoppage time Beardsley, whose ability to thread passes through crowded areas had lain at the heart of Newcastle's football in the second half, found the striker completely free.

With Walker on the ground, Ferdinand managed to hook the ball towards the net but Calderwood, who had just come on for the injured Campbell, cleared the danger. Thus did Willie Wardrope's 100-year-old Newcastle record survive.

Defeat would have left Tottenham smouldering with a sense of injustice. Early in the match Keegan objected to the action being shown and reshown on the giant television screen. The action replays were promptly cut out, so Spurs fans were left to believe the evidence of their own eyes on the two penalties for handball they felt their team should have been awarded.

The case for Peacock being penalised, when he flung up an arm to block Armstrong's header after 20 minutes, looked stronger than the argument for a penalty being given against Beresford, who tried to get his arm out of the way of Rosenthal's header 13 minutes from the end.

Within a minute of the first appeal Austin had met a poor clearance from Sellars with a high centre to the far post, where Armstrong scored his fifth goal for Tottenham with a looping header. Dozzell's subduing of Beardsley looked important at that stage but proved an illusion later on.

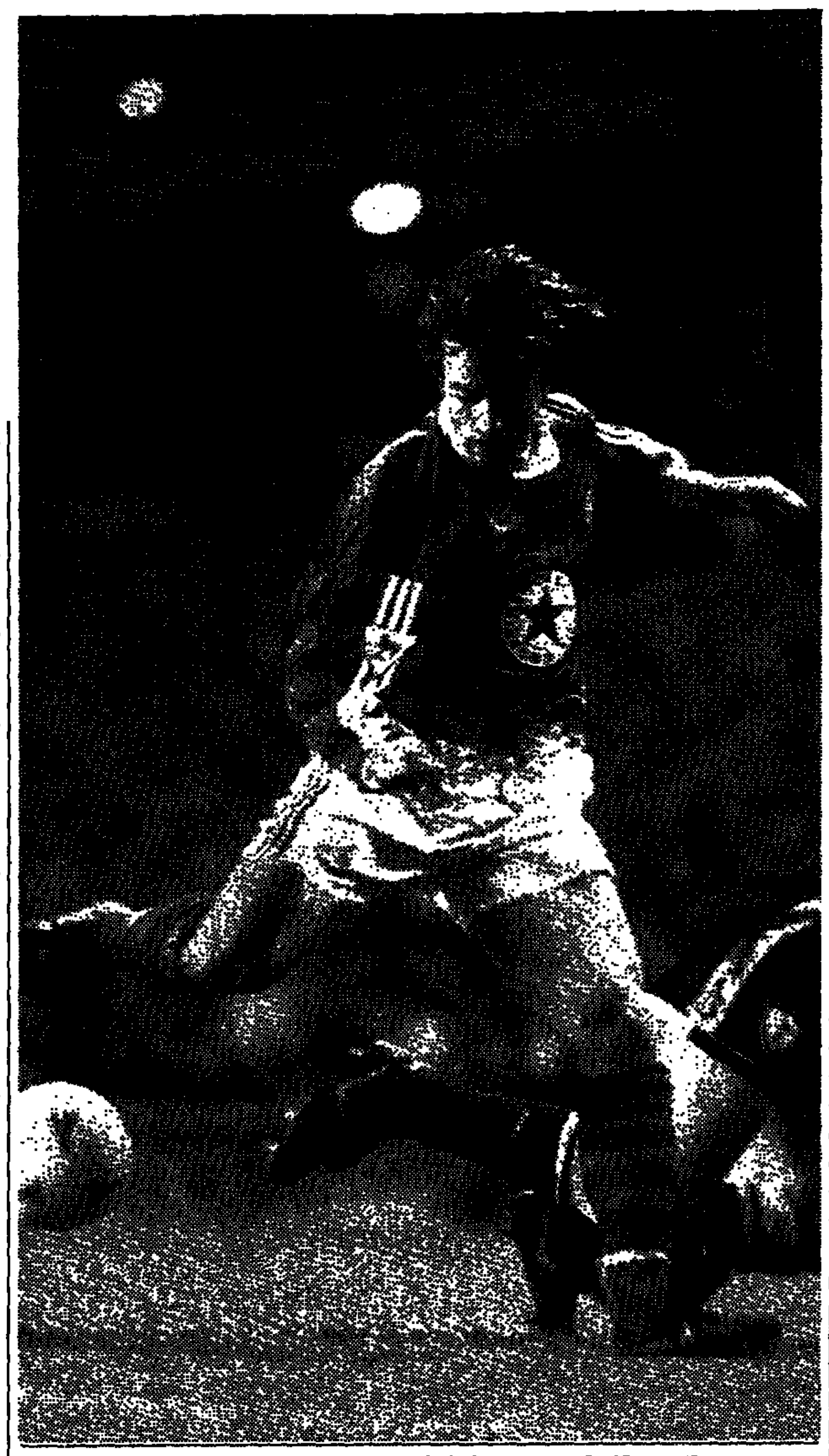
Keegan's reshuffle immediately brought its reward. Barely a minute into the second half Ginola gathered a pass from Sellars and forced his way past Fox and Austin, with the hint of a foul as he bundled the latter over on his way through. The Frenchman's shot beat Walker at the near post and Tottenham's fourth home league defeat looked imminent.

Tottenham, however, all but regained the lead just past the hour when Austin's cross-field pass released Fox, who had switched from right wing to left, and a low centre found Sheringham striding through the middle to produce a precise, low shot which Hislop did well to save. That move alone justified the outcome.

Tottenham Hotspur: Walker; Austin, Mabbutt, Campbell (Calderwood, 85min), Wilson, Fox, Howells, Dozzell, Rosenthal (McMahon, 89), Sheringham, Armstrong.

Newcastle United: Hislop; Barton, Peacock, Howey, Beresford, Gillespie, Lee, Beardsley, Sellars, Ferdinand, Ginola.

Referee: M Bodenham (Looe).



Going for goal . . . Ginola bundles Austin aside before scoring for Newcastle FRANK BARON

Malcolm banished to the nets

Edward Harris in Soweto

TROUBLES, like London buses, usually come in pairs, and England did not know which one to catch first here yesterday.

Both are potentially extremely damaging to their hopes of success on this winter's South Africa tour and both need fairly rapid remedy with only two first-class matches left after today's final day before the first Test.

Devon Malcolm, the squad's senior bowler, and Robin Smith, the most experienced batsman, are worryingly out of touch and, though these are still early days, the England tour manager Ray Illingworth keeps reminding everyone: "There's not much time left before the Tests start."

England are so concerned about Malcolm's reluctance to heed the bowling coach Peter Lever that they took the most unusual move of pulling him out of the action on the third morning yesterday to give him an extra coaching session with the other five players not involved in the match.

While his 10 team-mates headed off yesterday morning for the match against the South African Invitation XI, Malcolm travelled 25 miles in the opposite direction to Centurion near Pretoria for what virtually amounted to a bad-boy net.

The South Africans were nine wickets down overnight and Illingworth explained: "We had only one wicket to take and didn't see much point in him hanging around all day doing nothing. Devon needs plenty of bowling off his full run-up and at proper pace."

In other words, Illingworth does not think Malcolm is putting his back into it and the strike bowler who destroyed South Africa at The Oval last year, taking nine for 57, is in danger of being discounted if he does not show the attitude demanded.

Smith's attitude is not in doubt, but his confidence is. Smith, a player who lives on nervous energy, is getting out and dropping catches far too frequently for everyone's liking.

Yesterday he had plenty of opportunity to make runs after Richard Illingworth polished off the South African first innings by claiming his sixth wicket and leaving England with a 122-run lead.

Michael Atherton retired with a hamstring twinge and John Crawley soon followed, leaving Smith to take the stage in the 12th over. He had plenty of time to build an innings, but his stay lasted only 16 minutes before he gave a tame catch behind to be out for a duck, leaving him with only 49 runs in his four innings on tour.

There are no such concerns about Alec Stewart, who has impressed every time he has gone to the crease. Yesterday he followed his first-innings 94 with an unbeaten 101 as England built a big lead of 404 before declaring to leave Malcolm with an hour to let fly.

Three successive deliveries gave a brief reminder of the Derbyshire bowler's hostility but he again remained wicketless and was taken out of the attack after five generally innocuous overs.

He should, however, have claimed the wicket of the opener Micky Arthur with a bouncer that was gloved high to the wicketkeeper Jack Russell, who just failed to hang on to it. The next ball bruised Arthur's ribs and the next broke his helmet — but it was left to the off-spinner Mike Watkinson to get him out, leaving the South Africans with 380 to get today with nine wickets remaining.

ENGLAND XI

First innings (overnight: 285–7)

J P Crawley c Rhodes b Davis	85
R K Illingworth c Rhodes b Davis	19
A R C Fraser st Masikizana b Davis	6
D E Malcolm not out	0
Extras (b9, lb14, nb16)	39
Total (131.4 overs)	332

Fall of wickets cont: 312, 325.

Bowling: Pringle 26–4–75–3; Snell 13–6–30–0; Williams 29–9–73–0; Cronje 6–3–17–0; Davis 21.4–8–88–4; Strydom 34–14–46–3.

SA INVITATION XI

First innings

J M Arthur c Russell b Ilott	1
P Amm c Crawley b Illingworth	30
*W J Cronje b Watkinson	56
J N Rhodes c Russell b Illingworth	1
G Toyana st Russell b Watkinson	3
P C Strydom c Crawley b Watkinson	11
R P Snell c Hick b Illingworth	14
†L Masikizana b Illingworth	44
M J G Davis c Russell b Illingworth	1
M W Pringle st Russell b Illingworth	36
H S Williams not out	1
Extras (lb9, nb3)	12
Total (78.1 overs)	210

Fall of wickets: 2, 53, 83, 92, 97, 118, 126, 138, 207.

Bowling: Malcolm 14–4–32–0; Ilott 14–6–41–1; Fraser 9–2–14–0; Illingworth 25.1–10–76–6; Watkinson 16–5–38–3.

ENGLAND XI

Second innings

*M A Atherton retd hurt	22
A J Stewart not out	101
J P Crawley c Rhodes b Davis	1
R A Smith c Masikizana b Pringle	0
G A Hick c Masikizana b Williams	55
†*R C Russell c Toyana b Cronje*	45
M Watkinson b Williams	26
M C Ilott not out	8
Extras (b9, lb5, w1, nb13)	28
Total (for 5 dec, 80 overs)	282

Fall of wickets: 48, 56, 166, 230, 269.

Bowling: Pringle 17–2–87–1; Williams 22–5–77–2; Davis 25–6–86–1; Strydom 4–0–17–0; Cronje 12–3–21–1.

SA INVITATION XI

Second innings

J M Arthur b *Watkinson*	12
P Amm not out	10
M W Pringle not out	0
Extras (lb1, nb2)	3
Total (for 1, 12 overs)	25

Fall of wickets: 25.

To bat: *W J Cronje, J N Rhodes, P C Strydom, G Toyana, †L Masikizana, M J G Davis, H S Williams, R P Snell.

Bowling: Malcolm 5–1–16–0; Fraser 2–2–0–0; Watkinson 3–1–4–1; Illingworth 2–2–0–0.

Umpires: *M Bagus and W Diedricks.*

Malik row goes on

SALIM MALIK, the former Pakistan cricket captain, flies to Australia today and into a simmering row over allegations of bribery that have soured relations between the two countries.

Australian officials yesterday criticised the International Cricket Council for failing to investigate charges against Malik.

A Pakistan Cricket Board inquiry cleared the batsman eight days ago and said that the charges against him — that he tried to bribe Mark Waugh, Shane Warne and Tim May to lose matches on Australia's 1994 tour of Pakistan — were "concocted".

Pakistan face a heavy defeat in their opening first-class tour match after a dismal batting performance against Western Australia in Perth. In reply to the home side's 402 for five declared they stumbled to 164 all out.

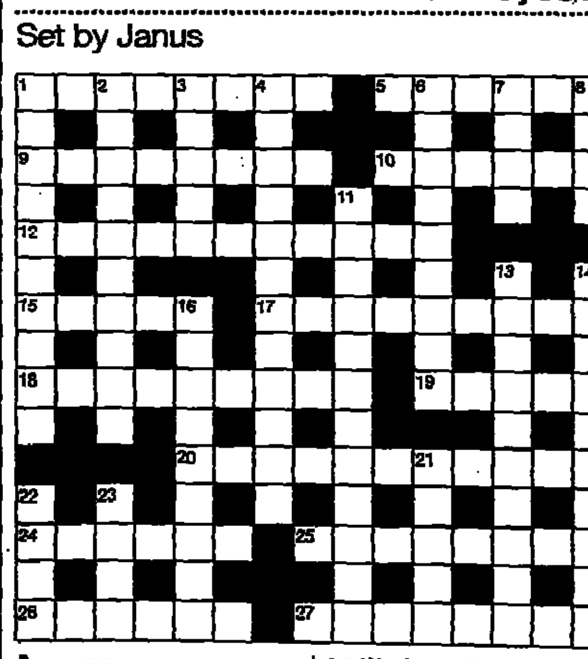


Wobbly sets, horrendous costumes and unbelievable story lines made Prisoner Cell Block H a cult TV classic, and now a West End musical. So why is crap TV such compulsive viewing?

Arts G2 page 12

Guardian Crossword No 20,485

Set by Janus

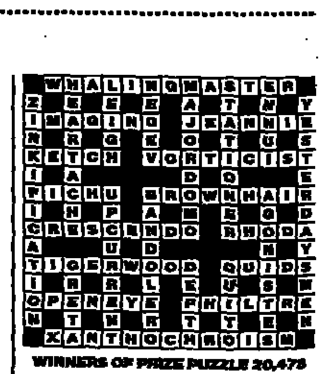


Across

1 Actor's article on wildest Spain (8)
5 Puzzle at work-face (6)
9 Sound of heavy breathing at Paris tea-party (8)
10 Second thoughts over this place on the globe (6)
12 Time associated with Pythagoras? (5,6)
15 Confined like many old people (5)
17 Possibly under-rank an Indian postman (3,6)
18 One welcomed by bright child or editor (3,6)
19 Austere writer (5)
20 Unattached state cherished by opponents of tyranny (4,7)
24 Suitable cut-out for computer (3-3)
25 Lasting-power of the French deserter on a charge (8)
26 Was he a soldier in a Philistine city? (6)
27 Group of men in pursuit of a mate (5,3)

Down

1 Royal gardener finding occcupation scarcely sufficient (10)
2 Period fashion MP for example wore in deshabille (6,4)
3 Contractor's company (5)
4 Dickens's crafty baseball player perhaps (8,6)
6 Musical pawnbroking associations? (3,6)
7 Free to develop enclosed portion (4)
8 First lady's northern flat (4)
11 Repetitive sign of excessive inhalation? (7,5)
13 Diverts with over nine treats (10)
14 An attachment achieved with relative difficulty (6,4)
16 Sign of cold, profound TV personality (4,5)
21 Range of rural society (5)
22 Flower inclined to droop it apears (4)
23 Spring with right mineral (4)



WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 20,479

The winner of this week's leather-bound Collins English Dictionary is Mick Ruddy of Middlesborough, Cleveland. Runners up (Collins Concise Dictionary and Thesaurus) are Mrs N V Welch, of Bognor Regis, West Sussex, Hans Boerakker of London, NW7, and P Morton-Williams of Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Solution tomorrow

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